

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES  
3 JUNE 2010**

Present: Councillors Bird, Cartwright (in the Chair), Dowling, Gurney, Stevens and Wilson

Lead Members in attendance: Councillors Birch, Kramer, Scott and Webb

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barlow and Chowney.

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following councillors declared an interest in the minutes as indicated:

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Bird	3	Personal – Area Board Member for Ore
Stevens	3	Prejudicial – Amicus Horizon Employee (with regard to play areas)

**2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2010 be approved as a true record.**

**3. QUARTER FOUR PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer, presented the Corporate Plan Part III.

The report detailed year-end actual performance by the staff in Environmental Services, Regeneration and Planning and Community Well-being Directorates against the targets and milestones set out in Part II of the Corporate Plan for 2009/10. It noted the areas of shortfall and the actions that will be taken to improve performance during 2010/11.

Members discussed enviro-crime fixed penalty notices, communal bins, White Rock Theatre attendance, planning applications and customer complaints.

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Members made particular reference to the number of visits to Hastings Museums (L353), master-planning proposals for West Marina, planning applications needing highways response (L128), accessibility of local authority public buildings (L378), fuel poverty (NI 187a) and temporary accommodation for the homeless (L355). Members agreed to provide recommendations to Cabinet on the issues highlighted above.

Members also discussed the communication between the Information Centres, now they were under separate management. Kevin Boorman, Head of Communications and Marketing agreed that closer working relationship with the Head of Resort Services and Amenities would be beneficial to their operation.

Particular concern was given to NI 015, serious violent crimes per 1000 population. Members agreed that this was still a serious issue in the town and should continue to be closely monitored.

#### **RESOLVED that:**

- 1. the information that will form Part III of the Corporate Plan be noted;**
- 2. the committee's comments on the proposed performance indicator targets for 2010/11 to 2012/13 be referred to the Cabinet meeting on 14 June 2010, in particular those recommendations set out below:**
  - i) L353 (Total number of visits to Hastings Museums (including supported museums)) be looked at further to ensure robust but achievable;**
  - ii) Planning Services Target 9 (Take forward master-planning proposals for West Marina providing a firm planning basis for the development and securing developer interest in the site) be amended to show as a Red (R) status and not Amber (A) as not achieved;**
  - iii) L128 (% planning applications needing highways response dealt with in 21 calendar days (of receipt of all information)) target to be increased to 90.0% from 80.0% for future years;**
  - iv) L378 (Local Authority public buildings suitable for all and accessible to disabled people) to be retained in the Corporate Plan and not removed as suggested in the report;**
  - v) NI 187a (Tackling fuel poverty - % of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low energy efficiency rating). A working group made up of members and officers be re-introduced to monitor**

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- this target, in conjunction with the new administration's anti-poverty strategy;**
- vi) **L355 (Length of stay in B&B) to be retained in the Corporate Plan and not removed as suggested in the report; and**
3. **staff be thanked for their hard work in achieving the targets set out in the Corporate Plan.**

**4. FINAL REPORT ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SEWERAGE CAPACITY**

Councillor Wilson presented the final report on the Scrutiny Review of Sewerage Capacity.

He explained to the committee that this review had been ground-breaking for Overview and Scrutiny in terms of reviewing an external organisation that provided a service to residents within the Borough. The review was undertaken to address current issues with sewerage capacity in the town and look into how pressures on the existing system could be managed as a result of new and planned development, as far as possible.

The review team had interviewed Southern Water in order to understand how they operated as a company and service provider.

The committee welcomed the report and asked that all members of the Council receive a copy, as well as interested parties who were also involved in the review itself.

Richard Homewood, Corporate Director Environmental Services explained that action points 2 and 3 in the action plan were now under his responsibility and asked that the Responsible Officer be amended to reflect this.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. **the standard sewerage condition be applied to planning permission given for changes of use or conversions resulting in 10 or more residential units, as well as for new build developments;**
2. **Cabinet consider the implications of the Flood and Water Management Act;**
3. **East Sussex County Council be requested to review their policy on road gully cleansing in the Hastings Borough**

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**Council area, to ensure that the impact of debris entering the sewerage system is minimised;**

- 4. the Annual Meeting of Overview and Scrutiny considers incorporating a Review of Flood Management in its future work programme;**
- 5. points 2 and 3 of the Action Plan be amended to show the Responsible Officer as Corporate Director, Environmental Services; and**
- 6. all staff involved in the review be thanked for their hard work.**

**5. MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISIONS**

Katrina Silverson, Scrutiny and Electoral Services Officer, presented a report on the recent Cabinet Decisions made since the last formal meeting, highlighting areas that fell within the Committee's remit.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted.**

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.17pm)