

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES 20 SEPTEMBER 2010

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

Lead Members in attendance: Councillors Birch, Kramer and Webb

Apologies for absence were received from Richard Homewood, Simon Hubbard, Tim Cookson, Andrew Palmer and Jane Hartnell.

### **6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Kramer	9	Personal, Chair of The Bridge
Cartwright	8	Prejudicial – Trustee of Gensing & Central St Leonards Community Forum
Stevens	8	Prejudicial – Member of Management Committee, Hastings Furniture Service

### **7. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 3 June 2010, 1 July (Special Joint Overview & Scrutiny meeting) and 1 July (joint annual meeting) be approved as a true record.**

### **8. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FUND**

Members agreed that this item be moved up the agenda.

As Councillor Cartwright had declared a prejudicial interest he left the Council Chamber and Councillor Wilson took the chair for this item.

Mary Denning, Strategic Manager Regeneration and Community Services presented the report which reviewed both the allocations process and the Year 1 (2009-10) delivery of Community Partnerships Fund, and especially on the Review of Process. Kevin Stower, Regeneration Programme

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES 20 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Manager, reported on Review of Performance. He thanked Councillor Kramer, Monica Adams-Acton and Mary Denning for their help. He reported that all projects were generally working well but that they are still looking at ways to improve. Councillor Stevens commented that it was a huge amount of work and thought the Committee should express its gratitude to the whole team.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- 1. Staff in Regeneration and Community Services be thanked for their hard work.**
- 2. The outcome and conclusions of the review are noted.**

### **9. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY OF DERELICT BUILDINGS**

Councillor Cartwright presented the report. At the recent scoping meeting it had been agreed that four case studies around Hastings and St Leonards would be used to explore the issues around derelict buildings. Councillor Bird asked what was meant by the word 'derelict' and Mike Hepworth, Head of Environmental Health, confirmed this meant buildings that were now falling down not buildings that were left half completed. Mike Hepworth to give thought to this before the next meeting. Councillor Cartwright said the members of the Review had discussed the meaning of the word 'derelict' but Councillor Bird's suggestion would also be considered at the next meeting.

### **10. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer, presented the report.

The report advised Members of the performance against the 2010/11 targets in Part II and Part III of the Corporate Plan, with related budget and risk issues.

Members discussed the loss of income arising out of the revoking of the current £22 fee for personal searches in respect of Land Charges and the Myth Busting working group and Councillor Kramer said she would ensure that the Committee is kept up to date with developments. Members went on to discuss the racist incidents suffered by taxi drivers. Monica Adams-Acton, Head of Regeneration and Community Services said that work is on going with drivers, cab companies and licensing officers. Councillor Bird asked about CCTV in cabs and Mike Hepworth replied that funding for this was limited.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES 20 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Members went on to discuss the Silverhill Shopping Area and the possibility of a report being produced and used as a basis for making similar improvements in footfall in Hastings. Monica Adams-Acton to report back after discussions with traders.

There was discussion on the Sticks of Rock, the Coastal Currents Meal Deal and the Hastings Town Centre street market. Also discussed were the Bohemia Road Artwork, Answers to the Carbon Economy, the Pier, St Mary in the Castle and the delay in a decision on the MyPlace bid

Councillor Cartwright thanked everyone in Planning Services who had contributed towards the performance and achievement of targets.

Dog fouling was discussed and Mike Hepworth updated the meeting on the current hard hitting poster campaign.

The future management of Parking and Highways Services was discussed at length. East Sussex County Council's figures are being challenged and it is thought Hastings Borough Council's costs compare favourably with the other 2 schemes operating in the County. Councillor Kramer spoke on behalf of Hastings Borough Council's County Councillors at the last ESCC Cabinet meeting. ESCC has given notice of termination of the Highways Agreement and the business case in relation to on street parking is to be reported to ESCC Cabinet on 12 October.

Members made particular reference to the satisfaction of business with local authority regulation services (NI 182), the number of people attending White Rock Theatre performances (L233), the number of shows at the White Rock Theatre (L304), the number of complaints resulting in case of maladministration (L028), the number of formal complaints received by Hastings Borough Council (L092) and homelessness prevention (L368) and Councillor Bird commented on the large number of rough sleepers. Jenny Perkins, the Housing Needs and Enabling Manager, explained the new target and the fact that there is now a multi agency approach to minimising incidences of rough sleeping and the number shown include those who were at imminent risk of rough sleeping. Numbers of people found actually sleeping rough continue to be low.

### **RESOLVED that:**

- 1. staff in the Regeneration Homes & Communities and Environmental Services Directorates be thanked for their hard work and achievements in this quarter.**
- 2. the Committee be assured that action is being taken to improve any shortfalls in performance and/or to address risks highlighted.**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES  
20 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**11. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE UPDATE**

Kevin Boorman, Head of Communications & Marketing gave a verbal report on the Complaints Procedure which has been in place for 15 months. It is a three stage process:

- Stage 1 – the complaint is dealt with by the manager responsible, if not resolved
- Stage 2 – referred to the Head of Service, if not resolved
- Stage 3 – referred to Chief Executive or Local Government Ombudsman.

In Quarter 1, 58 Stage 1 complaints had been received, 4 Stage 2 complaints and no Stage 3 complaints. Kevin to report on a quarterly basis.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted**

**12. 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 8.24pm)