

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES  
15 FEBRUARY 2011**

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

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

**19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Stevens	22	Prejudicial – AmicusHorizon employee
Bird	23	Prejudicial – AmicusHorizon Area Panel Member
Stevens	23	Predjudicial – AmicusHorizon employee

**20. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting on 18 November 2010  
be approved as a true record.

**21. UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEWS OF MANAGEMENT AND  
SECURITY OF DERELICT BUILDINGS AND YOUTH PROVISION AND  
LEISURE**

This item had been moved up the agenda with the agreement of the  
committee.

Councillor M J Lock gave a verbal report on the Scrutiny Review of  
Management and Security of Derelict Buildings. Councillor Lock said there  
were 900 empty buildings in Hastings and that there was a difference  
between an empty building and a derelict building. The Review has focussed  
on 4 buildings each with a different background. The Review Team has  
spoken to people from different agencies and also the Grotbusters. Feedback  
shows that the Council is doing as much as it can.

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Councillor Stevens asked if compulsory purchase had been considered and was told that this would be a financial risk to the Council. Councillor Turner mentioned two houses on The Green which are owned by East Sussex County Council (ESCC). Councillor Lock is waiting to hear about the Hastings/Bexhill link road and discussions have been held with ESCC about the future of these buildings. The review is progressing to timetable.

Councillor Westley reported on the Scrutiny Review into Youth Provision and Leisure and told the Committee that the Review will now conclude in April because of the ESCC budget consultation. ESCC is proposing cuts to Childrens Services and this would impact on the outcome of the Review. Councillor Keith Glazier (ESCC) has agreed to attend the next Review meeting to discuss budget plans.

Councillor Cartwright thanked Councillors Lock and Westley for their reports.

**RESOLVED that the reports be noted.**

**22. QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT**

Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships Officer, presented the report. This advised Members of the performance against the 2010/11 targets in Part II and Part III of the Corporate Plan and a summary of financial information.

Members discussed the fall in audiences per show at the White Rock Theatre and the percentage of appeals allowed against the authority's decision to refuse planning applications and fewer customers visiting the Information Centre. The latter was partly explained by the recent bad weather and more information being made available on the HBC website.

There was discussion on the ability of local tradespeople to tender for contracts and the cost of public liability insurance for them. Also discussed was the future of St Mary in the Castle and Councillor Stevens said that pressure needs to be kept on the Big Lottery for a decision. Councillor Turner was keen that the information collected by the Primary Care Trust regarding the health of residents along Bexhill Road should not be lost in respect of the link road.

Recycling rates were discussed and Richard Homewood, Corporate Director Environmental Services said that recycling in the twin bin areas is good but poor in the weekly collection areas. It is thought that there is confusion regarding what plastics can be recycled and more information needs to be provided. It was also noted that recycling rates in Hastings and generally in other local authorities had dropped.

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**RESOLVED that:**

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

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

Graham Belchamber, Scrutiny and Democratic Services Manager, presented the 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 7.40pm)