

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES
1 SEPTEMBER 2011**

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

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stevens.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

8. MINUTES

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 2 and 14
June be approved as a true record.**

**9. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING
REPORT**

Chantal Lass, Policy and Partnerships Officer, presented the Corporate Plan Part III.

The report detailed performance by the staff in Environmental Services and Regeneration, Homes and Communities Directorates against the 2011/12 targets and performance indicators set out in Part II of the Corporate Plan.

Members discussed the numbers of Fixed Penalty Notices being issued, dog fouling and the recycling pilot scheme currently underway in Hollington.

Members also considered whether the proposed new grounds maintenance contract should reflect the procedures currently being considered for the tendering of the joint waste contract. Virginia Gilbert, Head of Amenities and Leisure, replied that although the grounds maintenance contract was significantly smaller and less complicated than the waste contract, the same processes would be followed. There was also a scrutiny review underway to look at the specification required in order to secure the most appropriate contract.

Members paid particular attention to several issues, including the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, the future of the Old Town Museum and derelict properties owned by East Sussex County Council (ESCC).

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Concerns were raised that some food establishments in the borough were not displaying their hygiene ratings. Mike Hepworth, Head of Environmental Health, replied that he thought that they were required to display their hygiene rating but that he would look into this in more detail in order to allay members' concerns.

The committee also raised concerns regarding the future management arrangements for the Old Town Museum. Councillor Cartwright asked on what basis assessments had been made, and whether the approach to the issue had been broad enough. Virginia Gilbert replied that a group of interested parties had come together to look at the future of the museum and had, so far, increased attendance over the summer with the types of events that had taken place. The committee asked for information to show how the current approach taken could be justified as the best approach for the use of the building; they wished to see that that all factors had been taken into account, including historical, cultural and financial.

Members also expressed disappointment regarding empty, derelict properties around the borough, specifically those owned by ESCC at Gillsman's Hill. The issue had been raised at County Council level and a meeting was due to take place to discuss the matter. Andrew Palmer, Head of Housing Services, advised that he had received information to suggest that these particular properties may be surplus to requirements and could be put back into housing use. The committee asked for a timeframe, if available, to be circulated.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the Committee's comments on Quarter 1 performance be addressed by the relevant Lead Member(s) with appropriate action and report back; and**
- 2. staff in the Regeneration Homes & Communities and Environmental Services Directorates be thanked for their hard work and achievements in this quarter.**

10. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISIONS

Katrina Silverson, Scrutiny and Electoral Services Officer, submitted 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 7.08pm)