

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES
16 FEBRUARY 2012**

Present: Councillors Dowling, Gurney, Turner, Westley (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Cartwright) and Wilson (in the Chair)

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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cartwright, Chowney, Stevens and Waite.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 17 November 2011 be approved as a true record.

18. UPDATE ON YOUTH LEISURE PROVISION FOLLOW-UP MEETING

Councillor Westley gave a spoken update on the Youth Leisure follow-up meeting that had taken place on 31 January 2012. This meeting had been requested by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees at their annual meeting in June 2011, following a successful scrutiny review in the last municipal year.

The meeting had been an informative one, with Penny Gaunt, Deputy Director Children's Services, Brian Hughes, Acting Head of Youth Justice and Targeted Support and Councillor David Elkin, Lead Member for Children's Services in attendance on behalf of East Sussex County Council (ESCC).

Under a restructure of Children's Services, ESCC had replaced the Youth Development Service with Targeted Youth Support. This had taken longer to bed in within the Hastings area, as the infrastructure was not already in place to support it. However, ESCC officers and Councillor Elkin assured the review team that extra efforts were ongoing to implement the service successfully.

Members of the Youth Council were also in attendance at this meeting, having been involved in the original scrutiny review previously. One of the many positive outcomes of the follow up meeting was the invitation for Youth

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Councillors to become involved in the county-wide review of Targeted Youth Support.

Members of the committee were pleased with this progress and asked that officers bring a report back to a future meeting, after Youth Councillors had had more involvement in the process.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. the committee welcome the update; and**
- 2. a progress report be brought back to the committee at a future meeting.**

19. QUARTER THREE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

Chantal Lass, Policy and Partnerships Officer, presented the Quarter Three Corporate Plan Performance Indicators.

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 slippage with the Council's communications and website target. They also asked for clarification around street cleanliness figures and homelessness prevention.

Councillor Westley asked for more information around the White Rock Theatre footfall figures, as these were considerably lower than the target. Virginia Gilbert, Head of Amenities and Leisure, explained that the current management were working to update the theatre and had embarked on an extensive programme of redecoration. Regular meetings had also been scheduled to discuss the drop in visitor numbers and look at ways to improve this. The current management had also been given more decision making responsibilities at a local level; this might help to assist with more relevant programming.

Members also discussed the performance in relation to major planning applications. Raymond Crawford, Development Control Manager, explained that there is not always a sense of urgency from developers in completing their applications, especially if Section 106 Agreements are involved. The financial downturn had also contributed to this, with developments slower to commence. The target had been met in previous years and was only this year that it had not.

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RESOLVED that:

- 1. the Committee's comments on Quarter 3 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.**

20. ACTION PLAN UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SECURITY AND MAINTENANCE OF DERELICT BUILDINGS

Mike Hepworth, Head of Environmental Health and Parking, presented an update to the committee on the action plan resulting from the Scrutiny Review of Security and Maintenance of Derelict Buildings.

All the recommendations had been accepted by Cabinet in the Management Response and all actions had been implemented.

The committee revisited their concerns around East Sussex County Council (ESCC) owned derelict buildings situated within the borough. Councillor Scott, Lead Member for Environment and Highways, explained that pressure on ESCC had been maintained. ESCC had also recently concluded that some properties were no longer required by them and a decision would be made shortly regarding their disposal. Some members were still concerned that no action had been taken, but accepted a decision was pending.

RESOLVED that the progress in implementing the agreed actions from the scrutiny review be noted.

21. 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.

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**22. INFORMATION ITEM: NOTES OF YOUTH LEISURE PROVISION
FOLLOW-UP MEETING ON 31 JANUARY 2012**

This information item was noted.

**23. INFORMATION ITEM: UPDATE ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
ACT**

This information item was noted.

24. INFORMATION ITEM: FORWARD PLAN

This information item was noted.

25. INFORMATION ITEM: TURE WORK PROGRAMME

This information item was noted.

**26. INFORMATION ITEM: SUGGESTIONS FOR FINANCIAL
ECONOMIES AND NEW SOURCES OF INCOME**

This information item was noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.53pm)