

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES
29 MAY 2012**

Present: Councillors Cartwright (in the Chair), Davies, Poole (until 8.10pm), Rogers, Turner and Wilson

Lead Members in attendance: Councillors Birch (until 7.15pm), Chowney, Forward, Scott and Westley

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Waite.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Chowney	3	Personal – HBRL Director and East Sussex Infrastructure and Energy Development Ltd Director (if discussed)

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February be approved as a true record.

3. CORPORATE PLAN PART III – YEARD END PERFORMANCE INFORMATION AND TARGET SETTING 2012/13

This item was moved up the agenda with the agreement of the committee.

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 and Regeneration, Homes and Communities Directorates against the targets and milestones set out in Part II of the Corporate Plan for 2011/12. It noted the areas of shortfall and the actions that will be taken to improve performance during 2012/13. The views of the committee were also sought on the prospective 2013 Performance Indicators targets.

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Members discussed the opening of the Jerwood Gallery, reductions in public place crime, Hastings Local Development Framework, steps to reduce dog fouling, the provision of play and green spaces around the Borough and how the town's programme of events might be expanded on limited resources.

The committee noted the target to undertake a review of Community Partnership Funding. Councillor Chowney, Deputy Council Leader and Lead Member for Regeneration, advised that a survey had been undertaken of organisations in receipt of Council grants, approximately 60% had responded. Members considered why some organisations had not responded to the survey and suggested ensuring all correspondence was as clear as possible. Simon Hubbard, Director of Regeneration, agreed to contact those organisations who had not responded and report back to a future meeting.

Andrew Palmer, Head of Housing and Development, outlined the targets for March 2013 as follows; 6.1 number of homelessness acceptances – 80, 6.2 number of homelessness cases prevented – 1,800 and 6.3 number of private sector dwellings (units) brought in line with the current statutory standard – 120. The committee supported these targets. Members noted that 1,833 homelessness cases had been prevented in March 2012 against a target of 800, and thanked staff for their efforts. The committee noted that this had largely been the result of improved data capture and a re-engineered service to focus on measures to prevent homelessness. However, a reduction in funding had impacted on targets to bring private sector dwellings in line with the current statutory standard. In future, the effects of reduced funding may be offset by a more stringent licensing scheme for such premises.

The committee discussed aspects of the Joint Waste Contract which will be presented to Cabinet in October. In particular, consideration was given to the trial of seagull-proof black bags in some parts of the town. Richard Homewood, Director of Environmental Services, advised that this scheme had been particularly successful in areas of high density, single occupancy housing. Members thanked those residents who had participated in the trial. The Joint Waste Committee will continue to refine the specification of the Joint Waste Contract based on the information gathered. An all Member briefing on the Joint Waste Contract by White Young Green was scheduled for 19 July 2012.

The committee acknowledged that the report contained a number of examples of successful joint working with other agencies.

RESOLVED that:

- 1 the information that will, subject to Cabinet approval, form Part III of the Corporate Plan be noted;**
- 2. the committee's comments on the proposed performance indicator targets for 2012/13 be referred to the Cabinet meeting on 11 June 2011; and**

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- 3. staff be thanked for their hard work in achieving the targets set out in the Corporate Plan.**

4. UPDATE ON FUTURE PLANS FOR THE CONTROL ROOM

Richard Homewood, Director of Environmental Services, gave a spoken update on future plans for the control room. The control room had been instrumental to date in reducing crime around the Borough and providing community reassurance.

Efficiencies to this service were being considered as part of the budget setting process and as a result of reduced funding. Suggested efficiencies have included closer working with East Sussex County Council and the Police, relocating the control room and reviewing the hourly coverage and location of cameras around the Borough.

Discussion took place regarding the effectiveness of CCTV in the prevention and detection of crime. Councillor Chowney, Deputy Council Leader and Lead Member for Regeneration, highlighted the findings of an earlier Scrutiny Review of the Effectiveness of CCTV as a Crime Deterrent. He explained that the review had found CCTV to be particularly effective in reducing car park crime. Indeed, Members noted that car park crime in the Borough had been reduced significantly since CCTV was introduced. Members also acknowledge that CCTV contributes to public reassurance.

Members considered investment that had already been made in this area, including the use of Rapid Response Cameras, and how existing equipment might be utilised in future.

RESOLVED that:

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

5. MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CABINET DECISIONS

Mark Horan, Policy and Partnerships 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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6. INFORMATION ITEM: FORWARD PLAN

This information item was noted. Members paid particular attention to an item regarding the Compulsory Purchase of land to enable the further development of a site at Priory Quarter by East Sussex Energy Infrastructure and Development Ltd. The committee noted that the scheme could generate a number of employment opportunities.

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

This information item was noted.

8. INFORMATION ITEM: FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

This information item was noted.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm)