

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SERVICES
22 NOVEMBER 2012**

Present: Councillors Cartwright (in the Chair), Howard (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Davies), Rogers, Turner, Webb (as the duly appointed substitute for Councillor Poole) and Wilson

Lead Members in attendance: Councillors Birch, Chowney, Forward, Hodges, Martin, Scott and Westley

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davies, Poole and Waite.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Minute</u>	<u>Interest</u>
Webb	13	Personal – Member of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel
Howard	13	Personal – shareholder of AFC Wimbledon

10. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September and the minutes of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 October be approved as a true record.

11. UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS MAINTENANCE STANDARDS AND PERFORMANCE

The Assistant Director for Transport and Operations at East Sussex County Council gave the committee a synopsis of the current Highways maintenance standards and performance. He noted that the Highways department at East Sussex County Council had been restructured and modernised over the past year. However, significant savings would still be required going forward in line with the current financial climate.

Members of the committee had prepared a number of questions on Highways maintenance performance, roads within the Borough and reinstatements, which were answered at the meeting. Discussion also took place regarding

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the resurfacing works to the west bound carriageway of Carlisle Parade. The committee were advised that resurfacing works required an extended period of dry weather; therefore works to the east bound carriageway of Carlisle Parade would be undertaken in spring 2013.

The committee raised a number of issues regarding the co-ordination of works to the highway by utility companies and the quality of reinstatements after works had been completed. The Assistant Director of Transport and Operations acknowledged these comments; he added that East Sussex County Council was in the process of adopting the DfT approved Permit scheme. . Under this scheme, utility companies would have to apply to the Street Authority for a permit before undertaking works to the highway. This would give East Sussex County Council, as the street authority, greater powers to manage Utility companies and minimise disruption to road users by incorporating this information into its wider programme of works.

Members of the committee were pleased to note the work of the Highways Stewards and underscored the importance of their efforts to monitor the roads around the Borough and promote communication between stakeholders and East Sussex County Council.

The committee thanked The Assistant Director of Transport and Operations for attending.

12. UPDATE ON THE MUSEUMS SERVICE

The Head of Amenities, Resorts and Leisure presented a report to summarise the work of the Old Town Hall Museum review group and future options for the Museum.

The committee noted that the Old Town Hall Museum had been a positive example of partnership working and the changes the group had overseen had realised an increase in attendance and income. Members considered the Museums Service as part of the wider local economy and the importance of engaging partners from the local business community. The committee were advised that the Johns Place Museum was already a popular venue for weddings and events and that there was scope to expand this in the future. Members also suggested research into the sale of merchandise online, which could provide an additional source of income.

Members requested a further update on the Museums Service in the next municipal year.

RESOLVED that:

- 1 to acknowledge the work of the review group and the committee's views on future options be noted;**

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- 2 to thank all those involved in the review group and the Museums Service for their efforts.**

13. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The Policy and Partnerships Officer presented a report to advise Members of the performance against 2012/13 targets and performance indicators in Part II of the Corporate Plan and provide a summary of financial information.

Discussion took place regarding the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) business plan, public place violence and the second phase of the Ore Valley Development. The Head of Environmental Services advised Members of the latest statistics for improvements to street cleanliness, noting that graffiti and fly posting had fallen by 1%.

Under the target to acquire a minimum of 20 units of HMO accommodation in 2012/13 as part of the regeneration plans for Central St Leonards, Members noted that Local Space had recently confirmed that it will not proceed with a larger programme beyond the pilot projects. The Council would continue to work with Local Space and other partners to renovate a former Nursing Home at 41 – 42 Carisbrooke Road to deliver further units of accommodation. Moreover, efforts were ongoing with partners to bring forward a larger programme based on the work of the pilot scheme. The Committee highlighted the importance of continued community development in this area.

Members considered the progress of improvements to the Pelham Arcade. The Council would continue to liaise with English Heritage to encourage the taking up of grant options. Where grants have not been taken up, enforcement action may be considered to ensure the restoration can be completed.

RESOLVED that:

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

14. SUGGESTIONS FOR FINANCIAL ECONOMIES AND NEW SOURCES OF INCOME

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The Policy and Partnerships Officer presented this item and sought Members comments.

15. FORWARD PLAN OCTOBER 2012 TO JANUARY 2013

The Policy and Partnerships Officer submitted the Forward Plan from October 2012 to January 2013. Members were invited to highlight any areas for detailed consideration.

The Committee highlighted the Hastings and St Leonards Homelessness Strategy which would be considered by Cabinet on 3 December and suggested this be forwarded to the Scrutiny Steering Group.

16. WORK PROGRAMME 2012-13 QUARTER TWO UPADATE

The Policy and Partnerships Officer delivered a report to update Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012-13 which had been agreed at the Annual Meeting on 18 June.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm)