

# Scrutiny Committee

## MEMBERSHIP:-

Councillor GOODYEAR (Chairman) Councillors SHUTTLEWORTH (Deputy Chairman)  
Councillors COOKE, Mrs COLES, THOMPSON, UNGAR and WARNER (as substitute for  
Belsey).

---

## 12. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2011 were submitted and subject to the inclusion of the following sentence; 'Wealden District Council currently provided its waste collection with an in house team but would like to procure a private sector company to carry out the service' were approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

## 13. Declarations of Interest.

None were received.

## 14. Corporate Plan 2012/13 Refresh – Consultation Results.

The Head of Strategy and Democracy presented the findings of the Corporate Plan 2012/2013 Refresh – Consultation Results to the committee.

In summary, Members were advised that the consultation was to test community opinion on the relative importance on the Council's current and future priority activity as contained within the corporate plan. The consultation took place over a 12-week period and comprised face-to-face presentation sessions for invited groups and the general public plus online participation through the Council's website and social media pages. The consultation process and sessions were heavily advertised in the local media and on the Council's website.

A total of 142 people participated in the consultation process comprising representatives from the business and voluntary sectors, communities of interest groups, a student group, and members of the general public. The entire consultation was undertaken in-house with a total cost of around £600. Across all consulted groups, the highest ranked current priority projects from within each area of the corporate plan were:

### Prosperous Economy Theme:

1. Town centre re-development
2. Development of events programme
3. Activating Eastbourne

**Quality Environment Theme:**

1. Street and public area cleaning
2. Waste management
3. Parks enhancement and preservation

**Thriving Communities Theme:**

1. Youth facilities/provision
2. Cultural provision
3. Housing – decent homes, solar panels, Extra Care Scheme

Across all consulted groups and corporate priority themes, the highest priority subject areas for the future were:

1. Town centre re-development
2. Youth provision
3. Waste management, Street and public area cleaning, and Parks enhancement and preservation

Members agreed that the consultation exercise undertaken was a key element in further demonstrating the Council's commitment to using evidence and engagement to enhance its knowledge in setting priority activities.

The availability of robust and comprehensive feedback from across the community together with improvements to the use of the Local Futures data provides a solid basis for continuing the Council's improvement journey in respect of corporate planning and strategic direction.

Members were keen to improve the face-to-face consultation process and make further use of social networking sites to improve consultation responses. Councillor Shuttleworth suggested using a vacant shop within the Arndale Centre with a similar style to the Town Centre Re-development presentation to gather further feedback from a wide selection of residents. Copies of the presentation were available from the Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

**NOTED.****15. Corporate Performance Quarter 2 2011/12.**

Members considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer updating Members on the Council's performance against Corporate Plan Priority actions, indicators and milestones for 2011/12.

Members were advised that **Appendix 1** was a detailed report on the Quarter 2 activities and outturns of the performance indicators listed within the Corporate Plan. This report shows the latest available outturns for the National and Local Performance Indicators featured in the 2010/15 Corporate Plan broken down into themed areas.

Commentary had been included in the action and indicator outturn tables where supplied. This provided some contextual background to the

performance and this function and was backed up by the online evidence collation facility of the Covalent system.

General Fund Revenue performance, HRA performance, Capital Programme and Treasury management for quarter two was set out at Appendices 2 and 3 to the report.

There were risks within the budget which were being carefully monitored however at the time of writing the report, there was an indicated £103,000 overspend. This was however considered to be within a manageable tolerance level of the net total budget.

Capital expenditure was low compared to the budget but this was as expected due to the fact that some of the major schemes had only just commenced and the reduction in the scale of the Solarbourne scheme.

Treasury Management performance was on target and within the approved Treasury and Prudential Limits.

Members requested further information on the Solarbourne Scheme following the changes to the government legislation. Members noted that the scaled down scheme provided some surplus income to the Council although as yet the actual amounts were not known, and that there were a number of disappointed residents who had wanted to take part in the scheme. Members also noted that there were a number of legal challenges to the government due to the consultation methods leading to the reduction in FIT tariffs earlier than anticipated. Members asked that their concerns regarding the changes to the FIT tariffs at such short notice were passed to the Energy Secretary. The committee were advised that Stephen Lloyd, MP involved in lobbying the government on the Council's behalf.

**NOTED.**

## **16. Youth Provision - Presentation.**

Members received a presentation by the Community Services Manager regarding Youth Provision in Eastbourne. The presentation had been requested by Members to help inform a Scrutiny Task Group Review looking at what the Council has available in Eastbourne, the effects of the reduction of East Sussex County Council funding on Youth services and what Eastbourne was doing to mitigate the loss. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Members discussed employment opportunities for young people in Eastbourne and focused on the information and support available to help find employment. Copies of the presentation are available from the Scrutiny Co-ordinator.

**NOTED.**

**17. Devolved Budgets – Bi-annual Update 2011/12.**

The committee considered the report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator regarding the devolved budget schemes for 2011/12.

**NOTED.**

The meeting closed at 8.01p.m.

**Councillor Goodyear  
Chairman**