

Scrutiny Committee

MEMBERSHIP:-

Councillor GOODYEAR (Chairman) Councillor SHUTTLEWORTH (Deputy Chairman)
Councillors BELSEY, COOKE, Mrs COLES, THOMPSON and UNGAR

22. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2012 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

23. Declarations of Interest.

None were received.

24. Neighbourhood Management and Community Development – Briefing paper.

Members received a briefing paper and presentation by the Community Services Manager regarding Neighbourhood Management and Community Development in Eastbourne. The paper gave a brief background to Neighbourhood Management in Eastbourne and outlined some key issues that would need to be addressed to maximise the benefits of this way of working.

Members agreed that there should be better co-ordination of existing groups and agencies involved; and appreciated the need for training and support for residents / community groups. Members also felt that community engagement sessions would assist in improving neighbourhood management across the town. There was call for gradual integration of the various panels, with communication between existing groups was seen as essential in improving and increasing the benefits for the communities. It was agreed that it was important to continue to encourage and support existing community groups, and Members considered that budgets allocated to new neighbourhood panels would be an important part of the success of future groups.

NOTED.

25. Youth Provision – Briefing paper.

Members received a briefing paper and presentation by the Community Services Manager regarding Youth Provision in Eastbourne. The presentation had been requested by Members and looked the provision of youth services in Eastbourne, the effects of the reduction of East Sussex

County Council funding on Youth services, activities supported by East Sussex County Council, YMCA provided services, and what Eastbourne was doing to mitigate the loss. The paper also highlighted the gaps in services in funding and new projects proposed as part of the Youth Strategy. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Members discussed the need to identify 'in need' youth as soon as possible to provide assistance and deter further issues, and methods with which this was currently happening. The loss of Connexions had left a noticeable gap, and Members hoped that the TYS scheme would encourage young people to come to taster sessions with the start of the Youth Bank.

Members agreed that the concept of a 'youth club' was outdated and that there was a need to find alternative solutions that young people would want. It was noted that the development of the Youth Strategy had helped co-ordinate youth activity in Eastbourne, and agreed that the greater the input the greater benefit to the youth of Eastbourne.

NOTED.

26. Devolved Budgets – Year end 2011/12.

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

Members discussed the Ward Budgets and noted that 60%+ of the previous year's budget had been allocated to external community groups, Members recognised, in light of the previous presentation, that there was greater potential for Ward Budgets to further assist community projects across the town.

NOTED.

The meeting closed at 7.45p.m.

Councillor Goodyear
Chairman