

Monday 7 September 2009  
at 6.00pm



# Scrutiny Committee

## MEMBERSHIP:-

Councillor MARSDEN (Chairman) Councillor STANLEY (Deputy Chairman), Councillors BELSEY, Mrs HEAPS, PURCHESE, THOMPSON and Miss WOODALL.

## 6 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2009 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

## 7 Declarations of Interest.

None were received.

## 8 Crime Reduction Partnership Plan Presentation.

The Crime Reduction Partnership Co-ordinator gave a presentation regarding the Crime Reduction Partnership Plan detailing the Partnership's history, Plan, Structure and hallmarks and Performance success. The Partnership Co-ordinator also highlighted the resources and funding and the up coming county-wide review which may look to centralising functions. The committee were advised that the lack of resources could undermine all that had been achieved in Eastbourne. Concern was expressed regarding the reduction in Area Based Grant from 2011/12 and potential threat to BCU (Basic Command Unit) funding which would have potentially serious consequences for crime levels in Eastbourne.

The committee discussed the various activities of the Plan including reducing drug dealing, why the crime levels rose in 2003/04 and shoplifting. The committee also considered the effectiveness of neighbourhood panels and the work undertaken following each meeting – residents were encouraged to highlight three areas of concern which were then promptly acted on by the Police.

Members raised concerns about the potential loss of funding and asked what kind of support could be given to the Partnership regarding the allocation of funding in future years. The committee were advised that it was important to maintain the current budget levels and for the Partnership to retain a certain amount of flexibility when utilising the funds available.

The committee agreed it was important to highlight the work of the Partnership, the positive work undertaken and the threats on funding for future years.

## NOTED.

## 9 Performance Indicator Outturn 2008/09

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Performance Manager informing members of the official performance outturns available against National and Local Indicators for 2008/09 and how they set a baseline for improvement through the Corporate Plan for 2009/10.

Members were advised that a new National Indicator suite was introduced for 2008/9 to replace the Best Value Performance Indicators. The list of 198 indicators contained indicators which were the province of different local authorities and other statutory services. As a result, Eastbourne Borough Council was now responsible for directly reporting only a small number of indicators to Central Government. Due to the new reporting framework for National Indicators, fully authorised data was no longer available as early in the year as with the Best Value Performance Indicators. Communities and Local Government produced a report of which indicators would be available by 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2009 and this was deemed the most suitable date to compile a report of those outturns available.

As many of the National Indicators were new or amended, targets were only set for indicators within the Local Area Agreement. Target setting for all other National Indicators would wait until robust baselines had been set for 2009/10.

The report set out the available outturns for National and Local indicators used to measure performance for Eastbourne Borough Council and support the Corporate Plan. Where possible, these have been put into some context against national, or regional performance for the same year. This information was not available for all indicators and some were listed as inappropriate for comparison.

The information contained within the report and its appendices was based on the latest available data that had been authorised by Audit Commission/Communities & Local Government where appropriate. Unlike in previous years, The Council were unable to report a majority of the indicators against targets however progress against key actions/activities had been managed through separate reporting as mapped out in the Corporate Plan throughout 2008/9. The figures included in the report would help to provide a baseline which the authority could use to set appropriate targets for ongoing improvement and report six month progress against later in the year.

The committee discussed several of the Indicators and sought clarification on the definition of indicators in para 2.2 of the report. The Strategic Performance Manager agreed to provide the requested information following the meeting.

### **NOTED.**

The meeting finished at 7.30pm.

**Councillor Marsden  
Chairman**