

OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

18th December 2006

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Bell (Chair) and Councillor Lane.

Conservative Group

Councillor Bladen (Vice-Chair).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Atkin and Bambrick.

OV/19. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th November 2006 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

OV/20. **REPORT OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Lane gave an update on the current actions of the Community Scrutiny Committee, as follows:-

Rural Post Office Consultation

It was reported that an investigation into this issue would conclude in January 2007, and a final report would be presented to the Community Scrutiny Committee. A meeting was due to take place with the National Federation of Postmasters on 8th January 2007. Councillor Lane confirmed that all Post Offices currently received rate relief of between 50% to 80%. A marker bid included in the District Council's budget to obtain further assistance for all rural Post Offices.

Street Scene Review

It was confirmed that a final report was being prepared for consideration at the Special Meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee on 15th January 2007. Final recommendations would then be taken forward with a view to them being considered by the Environmental and Development Services Committee at its Meeting on 1st February 2007. It was confirmed that consultation had taken place with local residents, County Council staff and the District Council's Waste Management and Street Cleansing Teams.

Community Scrutiny Work Programme 2006/07

A copy of the Committee's Work Programme had been circulated to all Members at the Meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee on 4th December 2006. It was reported that issues surrounding the Primary Care Trust were still to be discussed. The Deputy Chief Executive reported that a

meeting was due to take place with the Primary Care Trust, the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council in the New Year.

A discussion then ensued with regard to the E-enablement scrutinisation of the outward looking agenda, and Councillor Lane confirmed that this involved considering the access of services via electronic means within the community.

The Chair added that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee was currently considering how information was disseminated into the community, including through the website. He added that this could possibly be dovetailed into the Community Scrutiny Committee's E-enablement scrutiny of the outward looking agenda.

OV/21. **REPORT OF CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Bell gave an update on the recent activities of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, as follows:-

Treatment of Variances from the 2005/06 Budget Out-turn

The Committee had considered a report which detailed how the main variances arising out of the 2005/06 Budget Out-turn had been built into the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Asset Management Plan 2006/07

Councillor Lane advised the Meeting that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee had considered a report on the progress to date and further improvements required in respect of the management of the Council's Non-Housing Revenue Account Property Portfolio. Councillor Lane asked if all assets owned by the District Council were managed. The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Asset Management Register was an ongoing document which was currently being updated to ensure that it was as accurate as possible. However, certain assets held by the District Council may not be registered if held over a longer period.

Corporate Plan 2007/2010

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee had considered a report relating to the Council's Corporate Plan process for 2007/2010. It had been agreed that this issue would remain on future agendas of this Committee.

Efficiency Agenda

The Chair reported that it had been agreed that the business process efficiency side of this matter be reported to the Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee on 12th February 2007.

Service Information Project

It had been agreed that a Special Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be held on Monday, 8th January 2007 to consider a detailed project plan on the provision of Council services information, which would review examples of Council service leaflets used at present.

Sickness Absence Management

It was agreed that updated Sickness Absence Management figures would be reported to the Committee Meeting on 12th February 2007. The Chair reported that the October figure was disappointing, as it had again increased.

OV/22. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985**

RESOLVED:-

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS AND REPORTS

The Deputy Chief Executive reported that a response had been passed to Councillor Atkin following his question on equal pay issues within the District Council.

R. L. BELL

CHAIR