

OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

25th September 2006

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Bell (Chair) and Councillor Bambrick.

Conservative Group

Councillor Bladen (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Atkin.

APOLOGY

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Lane (Labour Group).

OV/9. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th August 2006 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

OV/10. **REPORT OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

In the absence of Councillor Lane, Councillor Bambrick gave an update on the current actions of the Community Scrutiny Committee.

SCRUTINY SEMINARS

Councillor Bambrick reported that further Scrutiny Committee seminars, would be held on 10th October 2006 and 20th November 2006, in Birmingham.

ACHIEVING TARGETS 2006/09 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members were advised that with regard to the Special Project “Achieving Targets 2006/09 – Planning Applications”, a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Environmental and Development Services Committee.

“ACHIEVING TARGETS 2006/09 – WASTE MANAGEMENT”

The Meeting was informed that with regard to the Special Project “Achieving Targets 2006/09 – Waste Management”, Members had recently taken part in site visits to other authorities. A detailed report had been completed and would be submitted to the next Environmental and Development Services Committee.

HOUSING PERFORMANCE INDICATORS BVPI 83A

Councillor Bambrick informed that a report on Housing Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) 183A/B in respect of homelessness would be submitted to the forthcoming Housing and Community Services Committee.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE INSPECTION

An update was given on the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Inspection. It was reported that the Audit Commission's final "scoring" in October 2005 of the Council's Repairs and Maintenance Service was "fair". However, following further discussion at a Special Meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee on 25th September 2006, it was felt that this Service was now hitting all required targets. A report on Housing Repairs and Maintenance would be submitted to the next Housing and Community Services Committee.

It was agreed that all reports being presented to policy committees should continue to be monitored by the relevant scrutiny committee. The Chair added that these reports should not contain too many recommendations, but remain focused.

RURAL POST OFFICE NETWORK

A progress report was given about possible changes to the rural post office network. Discussion had taken place with Mr. Mark Todd, M.P. and it appeared that a major factor was a lack of individuals willing to run a rural post office.

Councillor Atkin reported that a letter had been sent from the District Council to parish councils about changes to rural post offices, which Walton-on-Trent Parish Council had found insulting.

It was agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive ask Officers to look into this issue, and to respond directly to the Parish Council. If necessary, this would also be reported back to a future meeting of the Community Scrutiny Committee.

SWADLINCOTE STREET SCENE CONSULTATION

It was reported that a meeting was due to be held involving Chair of the Environmental and Development Services Committee and County Councillor Mrs. Lauro, to ensure an appropriate focus for this project.

BIG LOTTERY - WELLBEING

The Committee received an update on the Big Lottery Wellbeing funding programme. The Deputy Chief Executive reported that the Primary Care Trust was leading on a Big Lottery bid for the whole of Derbyshire. A further update would be given when more information had been received.

OV/11. **REPORT OF CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Councillor Bell gave an update on the current work programme of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

SICKNESS ABSENCE

A report had been finalised, with regards to sickness absence and this would be submitted to the Finance and Management Committee on 19th October 2006.

SERVICE STANDARDS

The draft Service Standards booklet was considered by the Committee. It was agreed that given the breadth of services, there might be too much within this booklet, and it should be split into a number of sections.

It was agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive pursue this, to ensure that the suggestion was considered before the guide was presented to the Environmental and Development Services Committee.

USE OF RESOURCES – VALUE FOR MONEY ASSESSMENT 2006

The Chair advised that last year's report from the District Auditor on the Value for Money Assessment had been received and noted. The 2006/07 report would be completed and presented to the next Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

SHIFTING RESOURCES – BUSINESS PROCESS RE-ENGINEERING

It was reported that the Shifting Resources – Business Process Re-engineering issue needed to be considered by a wider group of Members, not just scrutiny members. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that the Council's Leader had agreed that this presentation be offered to all Members.

CORPORATE PLAN – “PUTTING YOUR IDEAS INTO ACTION”

It was reported that there had now been nearly thirty responses to the “Putting Ideas into Action” initiative. A report on how these would be assessed would now be produced. All responses would be considered.

OV/12. SCRUTINY LEAFLET

The Principal Policy Officer submitted a draft scrutiny leaflet and reported on the amendments made. He added that there had been problems with the scrutiny eye logo, however this would be rectified.

Councillor Bambrick pointed out that 4th December 2006 had been omitted from the list of dates within the leaflet. Councillor Bell also asked if a further note could be included about “Special” additional meetings that might be included in the annual cycle. These amendments were approved.

It was agreed that subject to these minor amendments and Councillor Lane's approval, the leaflet be printed.

It was reported that the new Scrutiny website pages had now been created, but there was currently no content within them.

It was agreed that this be progressed by the Principal Policy Officer along with Scrutiny Chairs. The proposed content would include agendas, minutes, reports, the work programme and Membership details, reports etc.

Councillor Atkin asked at what point a member of the public could ask a question at a scrutiny committee meeting, and if there should be a specific item on the agenda to allow this to take place.

It was agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive look into this issue and report back to the next meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive asked if the Committee was satisfied with the design of the leaflet's front page, particularly the montage across the middle. The Chair wondered how this fitted in with the corporate image of leaflets, as the "Guide to Environmental Services" was different.

It was agreed that the Deputy Chief Executive establish whether there was a corporate style for leaflet design and format. It was also agreed that pictures on leaflets should be relevant to the subject matter of the particular leaflet.

R. L. BELL

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 5.00 p.m.