

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27th March 2006

**PRESENT:-**

**Labour Group**

Councillor Harrington (Chair), Councillor Bambrick (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Mrs. Mead.

**Conservative Group**

Councillors Mrs. Hood, Lemmon and Mrs. Renwick

CYS/29. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th February 2006 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

CYS/30. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2005/06**

The Committee considered a report which detailed the first draft of the 2005/06 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Members were advised that Overview and Scrutiny Committees were required by Article 6 of the Council's Constitution to report to Council each year on their working and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended work methods if applicable. Members noted the report was the first draft of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees Annual Report 2005/06 for this Committee's consideration and comment and that the specific work areas for 2006/07 would need to be identified and incorporated into the report. The report contained the following sections:-

Background

- Purpose of the report
- Composition of Overview and Scrutiny (O&S)
- Specific Functions
- Meetings
- Development and 'away days'
- Partnership links

Overview Committee

- Remit and focus
- Call-in of Policy Committee decisions
- Specific areas of activity and achievements
- Presentation to Council and Scrutiny
- Member training
- Street scene

Community Scrutiny Committee

- Remit and focus
- Specific areas of activity and achievements
- Best Value Review of Housing Stock Investment and Asset Management
- Sheltered Housing services
- Consultation on the Corporate Plan 2006 to 2009
- Street Scene review

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

- Remit and focus
- Specific areas of activity and achievements
- Review of Strategic Planning
- Review of the 2006/07 Budget proposals

Work Planned for 2006/07Concluding Comments and Acknowledgements

Referring to paragraph 1.5 of the report, Development and ‘away days’. Members expressed the view that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees Development and ‘away days’ had been very helpful in improving development and the operation of the Scrutiny function. Responding to a question from Councillor Lemmon, the Deputy Chief Executive (Mr. I. Reid) confirmed that the issue of Primary Care Trust (PCT) liaison in general and the development of health services in the District was being discussed currently at Officer level. Committee indicated that it wanted this matter to be included on the list of agenda items for future Meetings.

Referring to paragraph 2.3 of the report, Member training, it was confirmed that any Member who had questions on Member training in respect of information technology could contact either Nigel Glossop or Ken Roxburgh.

Referring to page 5 of the report in respect of the paragraph relating to Sheltered Housing services, it was confirmed that the report was still in the process of being prepared for submission to Housing and Community Services Committee and it was intended that the report would be considered at the Overview Committee in April 2006. Following further discussion it was:-

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the content of the report be noted.***
- (2) That Primary Care Trust issues and liaison between the Primary Care Trust and the District Council and the development of Primary Care Trust services in the District be included on the list of agenda items for future consideration by Committee with a view to Members receiving a presentation on this matter.***
- (3) That it be noted that the report on Sheltered Housing Services was intended to be submitted to the April 2006 Meeting of the Housing and Community Services Committee and would in the first instance be submitted to the Overview Committee for its comments.***
- (4) That if Members have any further comments on the draft Overview and Scrutiny Committees Annual Report 2005/06 before it is finalised and submitted to the Overview Committee, they be sent to Mr. Greenway in Policy and Regeneration for incorporation into the report.***

CYS/31. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Chair confirmed that, as discussed previously at this Meeting, there were a number of outstanding issues from the Committee's Work Programme. These included the report on Sheltered Housing Services which was intended to be submitted to the Overview Committee and then Housing and Community Services Committee in April 2006, and liaison arrangements and service development proposals in respect of the Primary Care Trust would be included on the Committee's Work Programme so that it could receive a presentation/report on this matter at a future Meeting.

Councillor Bambrick referred to the problems experienced by a number of residents caused by low frequency noise. The Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that this was a matter that fell within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee and he would request that Mr. P. McEvoy, Head of Environmental Services, prepare a position statement for consideration at the next Committee Meeting setting out the background to the problem of low frequency noise, the number of complaints received by the District Council and how the complaints are dealt with.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That Committee note that the report on Sheltered Housing Services was intended to be submitted to the April 2006 Meeting of the Housing and Community Services Committee and would in the first instance be submitted to the Overview Committee for its comments.***
- (2) That the Head of Environmental Services be requested to submit a position statement to the next Meeting of this Scrutiny Committee providing the following information on low frequency noise:-***
  - What is low frequency noise, a background to its causes.***
  - The number of complaints received by the Council from the public in respect of low frequency noise.***
  - The procedures used to deal with complaints received in respect of low frequency noise.***

K. HARRINGTON

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 4.25 p.m.