

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 6th October, 2005

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping
Room: Council Chamber
Time: 7.30 pm
Democratic Services Officer: Simon Hill, Senior Democratic Services Officer
email: shill@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564249

Members:

Councillors Mrs D Collins (Chairman), Mrs J H Whitehouse (Vice-Chairman), Mrs D Borton, M Colling, K Faulkner, P Gode, Mrs A Grigg, F Maclaine, Mrs M Sartin, D Stallan and M Woollard

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 16)

Decisions required:

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 September 2005.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

5. COMMISSIONING A PATIENT - LED NHS - CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Recommendation:

To consider and make comments on behalf of the Council on the 'Commissioning a Patient - led NHS' initiative.

(Joint Chief Executive (Community)). The 'Commissioning a Patient Led – NHS' exercise has placed a requirement on Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) to lead a process to review the pattern of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs).

In addition to this, the North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has recently been awarded Three Stars for their performance, which enables them to seek Foundation status.

A widespread consultation on these proposals and publicity exercise will be undertaken. As part of this the Committee is asked to consider a number options and submit comments.

Aiden Thomas, the Chief Executive of the Epping Forest PCT will be attending the meeting to help formulate any District response.

A letter of the Head of Housing Services together with documents concerning the initiative has been circulated to Members of the Committee and placed in the Members Room for perusal.

6. PRESS AND PUBLIC - ATTENDANCE AT STANDING AND TASK AND FINISH PANELS (Pages 17 - 18)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To consider the attached report which was deferred from the last meeting of the Committee

7. WORK PROGRAMME REVIEW (Pages 19 - 34)**(a) Review of Work Programme and reports of Panel Chairman**

The Committee is asked to consider the attached report on the review of the current work plan. To advise on current developments, all Panel Chairman have been asked to attend this meeting to report on progress with their individual work plans.

Standing Panels

Finance and Performance Management
Housing
Planning and Environmental Services
E-Government and Information and
Communication Technology
Constitutional Affairs

Chairman

Councillor J M Whitehouse
Councillor S Murray
Councillor D Stallan

Councillor F Maclaine
Councillor R Morgan

Task and Finish Panels

Externally Funded Leisure and Youth Provision
Register of Development Proposals
Member Training
Traveller Issues

Councillor Mrs A Grigg
Councillor F Maclaine
Councillor Mrs M Sartin
Councillor P McMillan

(b) Constitutional Affairs Standing Panel – Work Programme

In considering this initial review, the Committee is asked to consider the attached report of the Constitutional Affairs Standing Panel which seeks changes to its current work plan.

8. COUNTY WASTE PROCUREMENT (Pages 35 - 38)

(Head of Environmental Services). At the meeting of the Environmental and Planning Services Standing Panel on the 13 September 2005, the Panel requested that this report be submitted to this meeting for comments prior to its consideration by the Cabinet on 10 October 2005.

9. CABINET REVIEW**Recommendation:**

To consider any items to be raised by the Chairman at the Cabinet meeting on 10 October 2005.

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). Under the Overview and Scrutiny rules the Committee is enabled to scrutinise proposed decisions of the Executive. The Chairman is also able to report on such discussions to the Cabinet.

The Committee is asked to consider the 10 October 2005 Cabinet agenda (previously circulated) to see whether there are any items that they wished to be raised at that Cabinet meeting.

10. EXTERNAL ORGANISATION AND PARTNERSHIP - DRAFT PROTOCOL (Pages 39 - 62)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To consider the attached report.

11. REVIEW OF MAY 2006 ELECTIONS (Pages 63 - 64)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To consider the attached report.