

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 2nd February, 2006

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Room: Council Chamber

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Simon Hill, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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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

MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO BRING WITH THEM TO THE MEETING THEIR COPY OF THE DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2006-2010 AND PORTFOLIO BUDGETS FOR 2006/07

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 14)

Decisions required:

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 8 December 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 - FORMAL CONSULTATIONS (Pages 15 - 16)

(Joint Chief Executive - Community). To consider the attached report.

6. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING (Pages 17 - 26)

(a) Standing Panels

Recommendation:

To receive progress reports on the work carried out by the Standing Panels since the last meeting of the Committee on 8 December 2005.

The following Standing Panels have met since the last meeting of the Committee on 8 December 2005. The Chairmen of each Panel have been invited to report on the work carried out at these meetings and any matters arising.

The Chairmen to report and their respective Panels are set out below.

Constitutional Affairs (5 January 2006)
Environmental and Planning Services (12 January 2006)
Finance and Performance Management
(16/30 January 2006)
E-Government and ICT (23 January 2006)
Housing (30 January 2006)

Councillor R Morgan
Councillor D Stallan
Councillor J Whitehouse
Councillor F Maclaine
Councillor S Murray

(b) Task and Finish Panels

Recommendation:

To receive reports from the Chairman of the Task and Finish Panels on any matters requiring consideration by the Committee.

The OSC has recently resolved that the Chairmen of these Panels need only attend the meeting to report on matters for consideration or urgent issues. Any Chairmen with such matters to report are invited to attend this meeting to present the issues.

(c) Updated Work Programme

The Chairmen's reports will refer to the progress made against the items for their Panel in the current OS work plan. The full updated programme is attached for noting.

7. COUNCIL BUDGETS 2006/07 (Pages 27 - 30)

(Head of Finance). To consider the attached report.

8. DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2006 - 2010

(Head of Human Resources and Performance Management). To consider the separately circulated draft plan.

9. CABINET REVIEW

Recommendation:

To consider any items to be raised by the Chairman at the Cabinet meeting on 6 February 2006.

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). Under the Overview and Scrutiny rules the Committee is enabled to scrutinise proposed decisions of the Executive. The arrangements enable the Chairman to report on such discussions to the Cabinet at the next appropriate meeting.

Accordingly, the Committee is asked to consider the 6 February 2006 Cabinet agenda (previously circulated) to see whether there are any items that they wished to be raised at that Cabinet meeting.

10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider whether, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press should be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on grounds that they will involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information
		Paragraph Number
Nil	Nil	Nil

To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items which are confidential under Section 100(A)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972:

Agenda Item No	Subject
Nil	Nil

Paragraph 9 of the Council Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution require:

- (1) All business of the Council requiring to be transacted in the presence of the press and public to be completed by 10.00 p.m. at the latest.
- (2) At the time appointed under (1) above, the Chairman shall permit the completion of debate on any item still under consideration, and at his or her discretion, any other remaining business whereupon the Council shall proceed to exclude the public and press.
- (3) Any public business remaining to be dealt with shall be deferred until after the completion of the private part of the meeting, including items submitted for report rather than decision.

Background Papers: Paragraph 8 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution define background papers as being documents relating to the subject matter of the report which in the Proper Officer's opinion:

- (a) disclose any facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the report is based; and
- (b) have been relied on to a material extent in preparing the report does not include published works or those which disclose exempt or confidential information (as defined in Rule 10) and in respect of executive reports, the advice of any political advisor.

Inspection of background papers may be arranged by contacting the officer responsible for the item.