

## **EPHING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES**

<b>Committee:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>Date:</b>	Thursday, 5 October 2006
<b>Place:</b>	Civic Offices, High Street, Epping	<b>Time:</b>	7.30 - 8.15 pm
<b>Members Present:</b>	Councillors R Morgan (Chairman) Mrs P Brooks, M Cohen, M Colling, G Mohindra, Mrs P Richardson and M Woollard		
<b>Other Councillors:</b>	Councillors Mrs D Collins, Mrs P Smith and D Stallan		
<b>Apologies:</b>	Councillors Mrs J H Whitehouse, D Bateman, Mrs H Harding and P House		
<b>Officers Present:</b>	J Scott (Joint Chief Executive), D Macnab (Head of Leisure Services), I Willett (Head of Research and Democratic Services), S G Hill (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)		

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### **34. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was reported that Councillor Mrs Brooks would be substituting for Councillor Mrs Whitehouse and Councillor R Church would be substituting for Councillor Mrs Harding.

### **35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made pursuant to Part 2 of the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

### **36. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2006 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to:

- i) Councillor M Woollard being recorded as being in attendance; and
- ii) that the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economic Development, under item 31 (Liaison with Cabinet), (iv) Planning and Economic Development, would like to amend the sentence on consultation to read that "The Portfolio Holder had contacted each political group (with representatives in Loughton). Of the replies received, all were supportive of phases 3 and 4 of the Loughton Town Council Enhancement Scheme being progressed."

### **37. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING**

#### **(a) Work Programme**

The meeting noted the updated work programme for the Committee.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer reported that there were still two items outstanding for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look at. They were, County Highways and the Essex Police Neighbourhood Policy initiative. There was also an opportunity for a further presentation from the North East London Strategic Health Authority.

**(b) Reports from Panel Chairmen.**

**(i) Housing Standing Panel**

In the absence of the Chairman of the Panel it was reported that that the Panel had met recently to consider the Choice Based Letting Scheme.

**(ii) Constitutional and Member Services Standing Panel**

The Chairman of the Panel reported that the proposed review of the Area Plans Sub Committees had been moved to a separate meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2006.

**(iii) Environment and Planning Standing Panel**

The Chairman of the Panel reported that the members had undertaken a visit to Colchester and Braintree Councils to find out about and observe their Community Warden Schemes in action.

**(iv) Leisure Task and Finish Panel**

The Vice Chairman of the Panel, in the absence of the Chairman, brought the Committee up to date on the current developments of the four topics that the Panel were considering this year, namely the future management options of the Roding Valley Meadows Local Nature Reserve and Waltham Abbey Sports Centre, along with Arts Provision in the District and the Council's role in Community Events.

**(v) Town Centre and Car Parks Task and Finish Panel**

The Chairman reported that the Panel had held its first meeting and had agreed its Terms of Reference and Work Programme. He indicated that they would be seeking a joint meeting with the Crime and Disorder Task and Finish Panel to cover any common ground.

**(vi) Local Strategic Partnership Task and Finish Panel**

The Vice Chairman reported that the Panel had met with some action group chairs attended some action group meetings and an induction to the LSP, which was poorly attended, in contrast she judged our LSP as a good example of one and was well organised.

**38. LATE REPORT - WHIPPS CROSS UNIVERSITY NHS TRUST**

The Committee received a late report on the public concerns about possible future changes to service levels at Whipps Cross University Hospital. They noted that as well as the Princess Alexandra and Whpps Cross Hospital, residents of the district can also receive treatment at the Kings Georges Hospital, Ilford and Oldchurch

Hospital, Romford. These latter hospitals are all now subject to a programme review being led by the North East London Strategic Health Authority.

Contact has been made with the North East London Strategic Health Authority to register the concerns of the Council that despite the fact that a large percentage of our population is served by Whipps Cross Hospital in particular, we have not been included in the consultation process.

The North East London Strategic Health Authority is now aware of this council's particular interest and has agreed to add us to their stakeholder list. Further they have offered to arrange a presentation to Members if that is considered helpful.

Councillor Stallan asked that the report be put into the next Members Bulletin to let all members know the background of this issue.

If the members agreed to have a presentation then it was thought useful that that members should have a pre meeting to be briefed on any relevant questions.

**RESOLVED:**

That the North East London Strategic Health Authority be asked to attend the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to give a presentation on the review being held on local hospitals and answer any questions arising.

**39. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TOWN CENTRE AND CAR PARKS TASK AND FINISH PANEL**

The Committee considered and agreed the Terms of Reference for the recently settled Town Centre and Car Parks Task and Finish Panel.

**40. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND DISABLED PEOPLE TASK & FINISH PANEL**

The Committee considered and agreed the updated Terms of Reference for the Older People and Disabled People Task and Finish Panel.

**41. RE-USE OF PUBLIC SECTOR INFORMATION REGULATIONS**

The Head of Research and Democratic Services introduced the report on the draft policy for the re-use of public sector information held by the Council in which the Council holds the copyright.

**RESOLVED:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommended to Cabinet:

- (a) That requests for public sector information in which the Council holds the copyright be considered and made available for re-use in accordance with the adopted policy;
- (b) That the attached draft policy based on a case by case review of requests be approved with a view to implementation on 1 January 2007; and
- (c) That the Head of Research and Democratic Services be authorised to include appropriate scales of fees and charges in the policy.

**42. CABINET QUORUM**

The Head of Research and Democratic Services introduced a report submitting a revised procedure for protecting the Cabinet quorum under exceptional circumstances such as absence of a Cabinet member due to long-term illness or a resignation. The Committee agreed that a further 'catch-all' phrase be added, such as "for any other reason", to enable the proposed procedure to include any unforeseen circumstances that may arise.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that a report be submitted to the Council, including the addition of a phrase such as "for any other reason", recommending:

- (a) that the procedure for protecting the Cabinet quorum as set out in the Appendix to the report be approved; and
- (b) that the procedure be published in the Council's Constitution.

**43. CABINET REVIEW**

The Committee considered the Cabinet agenda for its next meeting on 9 October 2006. No issues were identified.

**CHAIRMAN**