

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 7th December, 2006

Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Simon Hill, Senior Democratic Services Officer
email: shill@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564249

Members:

Councillors R Morgan (Chairman), Mrs J H Whitehouse (Vice-Chairman), D Bateman, M Cohen, M Colling, R D'Souza, Mrs H Harding, P House, G Mohindra, Mrs P Richardson and M Woollard

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND
A PRE – MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE HELD AT 7.00PM

WEBCASTING NOTICE

Please note: this meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site - at the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Therefore by entering the Chamber and using the lower public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for web casting and/or training purposes. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the upper council chamber public gallery area

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Senior Democratic Services Officer on 01992 564249.

1. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

This meeting is to be webcast. Members are reminded to use their microphones when speaking.

The Chairman will read the following announcement:

“I would like to remind everyone present that this meeting will be broadcast live to the Internet and will be capable of repeated viewing.

If you are seated in the lower public seating area it is likely that the recording cameras will capture your image and this will result in the possibility that your image will become part of the broadcast.

This may infringe your human and data protection rights and if you wish to avoid this you should move to the upper public gallery”

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. MINUTES

Decisions required:

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 9 November 2006 (to follow).

5. 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.

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING - PROGRESS REPORT

To receive a progress report from Harlow Police on the Neighbourhood Policing Initiative.

(Joint Chief Executive (Community)). Members will recall that on 2 March 2006, the Committee received a presentation from Chief Superintendent Andy Adams on the Neighbourhood Policing initiative. Members noted the purpose of the scheme which was to solve local issues through the provision of local policing teams. Members also considered progress with the role out of the District initiative, Dispersal Orders,

response times to enquiries, incidents of anti-social behaviour, priority areas and resourcing issues both for the scheme and in general.

Superintendent Graham Carey of Harlow Police who is in charge of Neighbourhoods and Partnerships will be attending this meeting to present a progress report on the scheme.

7. EFDC PARKING ENFORCEMENT CONTRACT - PRESENTATION AND REPORT OF THE TASK AND FINISH PANEL ON TOWN CENTRES AND CAR PARKS

(Head of Environmental Services). To consider the report (to follow) of the Task and Finish Panel.

Members should also note that the consultants for the report (Parking Associates Ltd) will be attending this meeting to present their findings.

8. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING (Pages 5 - 12)

To receive verbal reports from Scrutiny Panel Chairmen on any significant issues arising from their work.

Panel Chairmen are asked to report on their work only if a significant issue has arisen not reported elsewhere. To support this the updated work programme is attached for information.

9. CABINET REVIEW

Members are reminded that the agenda for the next Cabinet meeting on 18 December 2006 will not be published and made available until the day after this meeting (8 December 2006). However to give Member early sight of the issues to be discussed, a list of the agenda titles will be circulated at the meeting. Any issues raised will be reported by the Chairman at the Cabinet meeting through the usual OS item.

10. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Exclusion: 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 following paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended) or are confidential under Section 100(A)(2):

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph Number
Nil	Nil	Nil

The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, which came into effect on 1 March 2006, requires the Council to consider whether maintaining the exemption listed above outweighs the potential public interest in disclosing the information. Any member who considers that this test should be applied to any currently exempted matter on this agenda should contact the proper officer at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Confidential Items Commencement: 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 and 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.