

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 1st February, 2007

Place: Council Chamber, 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.

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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. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To report the appointment of any

substitute members for the meeting.

3. 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.

4. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 36)

Decisions required:

To confirm the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 9 November, 7 December 2006 and 9 January 2007.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN THE EPPING FOREST DISTRICT - PRESENTATION.

Recommendation:

To receive an update from Lonica Vanclay, the Local Commissioner for Children's and Young Peoples' Services in the District.

The Committee received an initial presentation from Lonica Vanclay at its meeting on 31 August 2006. She explained the Government's vision for Children's Services was set out in the Green Paper "Every Child Matters" published in September 2003 and that the Department for Education and Skills had produced non statutory guidance on the role of District Council's in improving outcomes for children. A copy of that guidance was attached to the agenda for 31 August meeting.

Ms Vanclay set out the County's proposed response to the Green Paper, the role of the Children's and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), proposed changes to the structure and its links to the wider community especially the Local Strategic Partnership. The Committee noted the presentation and invited Ms Vanclay to come back in six months to give an update. That is the purpose of this presentation.

Things have moved fairly quickly since August. The structure of the CYPSP has been reviewed and Council at its meeting on 19 December 2006 appointed Councillors Mrs Grigg and Mrs Haigh to be its Member level representatives. They are supported at the CYPSP by the Joint Chief Executive, John Scott, who has also been asked to serve on the CYPSP Co-ordinating Group.

Officers from other Council Services (Housing and Leisure) serve on CYPSP Sub Groups.

At the same time meetings are taking place on the development of Children's Centres across the District and some Members are attending those meetings in a personal capacity, although it seems likely the District Council will be invited to have formal representation. However, this is a matter for later consideration.

Lonica Vanclay will bring Members up-to-date on the development of Children's Services within the District.

6. BUDGET 2007/08 (Pages 37 - 42)

To consider the attached report.

7. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING (Pages 43 - 52)

To note the updated work plan.

The Committee has stressed that this item should focus on new issues not reported elsewhere on the agenda, work carried out since the last meeting of the Committee, or any other significant issue requiring the Committee's attention. Accordingly, Panel Chairmen are reminded of the need to restrict their progress reports to such issues.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL AND MEMBERS SERVICES STANDING PANEL - REVIEW OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL DELEGATION.

Recommendation:

To authorise the Constitutional and Members Services Standing Panel to report direct to the Council in February 2007 on its review of Contract Standing Orders and Financial Delegation

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). The Constitutional and Members Services Standing Panel will be completing its review of Contract Standing Orders and Financial Delegation at its meeting on 8 February 2007. It would assist the Councils from the point of view of inspection by the Audit Commission if the review was completed by the financial year 2006/07. This will mean adoption by the Council on 20 February 2007. To achieve this deadline, authority is sought for the Panel to report direct to the February 2007 Council meeting.

9. CABINET REVIEW

Recommendation:

To consider any items to be raised by the Chairman at the Cabinet meeting on 5 February 2007.

Members are reminded to bring to the meeting their copy of the Cabinet agenda.

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.