

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY
PANEL
HELD ON MONDAY, 14 JANUARY 2008
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.00 - 8.15 PM**

Members Present: J M Whitehouse (Chairman), G Mohindra (Vice-Chairman), R Bassett, J Hart, M Colling, R Morgan, Mrs P Richardson and Mrs P Smith

Other members present: Mrs D Collins, M Cohen, A Green, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs M Sartin, Ms S Stavrou and C Whitbread

Apologies for Absence: D Jacobs

Officers Present D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive), J Gilbert (Director of Environment and Street Scene), R Palmer (Director of Finance and ICT), J Preston (Director of Planning and Economic Development), A Hall (Director of Housing), P Maddock (Assistant Head of Finance), J Bissell (Principal Accountant), R Sharp (Principal Accountant), A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer) and S Mitchell (PR Website Editor)

32. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Chairman made a short address to remind all present that the meeting would be broadcast on the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings. The Panel noted the Council's Protocol for Webcasting of Council and Other Meetings.

33. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

The Panel noted that there were no substitute members.

34. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

35. NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING - 13 NOVEMBER 2007

The notes from the last meeting, held on 13 November 2007, were agreed.

36. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel noted the work programme and terms of reference. It was noted that the review of Customer Services and ICT would start once the staff reorganisation had taken place.

37. DRAFT DETAILED PORTFOLIO BUDGETS

The Director of Finance and ICT introduced the report containing the breakdown of individual Portfolio Holders budget for 2008/09.

It was intended that the recommendations from the Panel would go to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31 January 2008. Cabinet will then consider the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Finance and Performance Cabinet Committee. Cabinet will then recommend a budget and Council Tax to Council for approval on 19 February 2008.

The following detailed information was provided for each Portfolio:

- (i) Estimate Summary – containing actual figures for 2006/07, original and revised estimates for 2007/08 and gross and net figures for 2008/09.
- (ii) Development Fund & Growth Items – containing development fund and growth proposals, original and revised for 2007/08 and original 2008/09.
- (iii) Detailed Estimates – containing figures and comments on each distinct area of the Portfolio.

The Panel considered the detailed Portfolio Holder budgets asking for clarification on a number of points from officers and Portfolio Holders. The issue of difficult to let garages came up. The Director of Housing said he would draw up a list of these garages and publish it in the Members Bulletin so that members would be aware of any in their area.

RECOMMENDED to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/ Cabinet:

That the draft Portfolio Holder budgets be endorsed and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet be informed accordingly.

38. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that this Panel had considered in detail, the draft Portfolio Holder budgets. They did not have any comments to add and had no particular issues to raise to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

39. FUTURE MEETINGS

Noted that the last meeting of this Panel for this municipal year was scheduled for 11 February 2008.