

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 11th December, 2008

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Simon Hill, Senior Democratic Services Officer, The Office of the Chief Executive
email: shill@eppingforestdc.gov.uk Tel: 01992 564249

Members:

Councillors R Morgan (Chairman), K Angold-Stephens (Vice-Chairman), M Colling, A Green, J Hart, D Jacobs, G Mohindra, Mrs P Richardson, B Rolfe, Mrs L Wagland and Mrs J H Whitehouse

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND

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 and copies made available to those who request it..

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

1. This meeting is to be webcast. Members are reminded of the need to activate their microphones before speaking.

2. 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 and copies of the recording could be made available for those that request it.

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"

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 Sub-Committee noted the Council's Protocol for Webcasting of Council and Other Meetings.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

(Assistant to the Chief Executive). To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

4. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 18)

Decisions required:

To confirm the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 6 November 2008 (attached)

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

(Assistant to the Chief Executive). 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. YOUTH COUNCIL FUNDING (Pages 19 - 22)

(Youth Council Representatives) At the meeting on 10 November 2008, the Cabinet

received a report on funding for the Youth Council for 2009/10. The Cabinet have requested the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a presentation from the Youth Council giving an update on developing the Youth Council programme.

Representatives from the Youth Council will attend the meeting. A copy of the original funding report to the Cabinet is attached by way of background.

7. THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF EPPING FOREST COLLEGE (Pages 23 - 24)

To receive a presentation from Peter Sadler, the Principal of Epping Forest College. The reason for this invitation is that the Committee wanted to review the strategic direction of the college, its vision for the future and its relationship with the community. The original request to review the College by Councillor Angold-Stephens is attached for information.

The College came to scrutiny 2 years ago but much has changed in the meantime, including changes to Government policies, the new build at the college and a new principal. It is understood he is developing a new 'vision' and significant changes to the curriculum and the relationship with the local community.

8. USE OF CONSULTANTS - REPORT OF CONSTITUTION & MEMBER SERVICES SSP (Pages 25 - 30)

(Lead Officer / Chairman Constitution and Member Services Standing Panel) Report attached.

9. SAFER CLEANER GREENER STRATEGY DOCUMENT (Pages 31 - 32)

Recommendation:

To receive and consider the first draft of the "Safer, Cleaner, Greener" Strategy document and to make recommendations to Cabinet.

(Director of Environment and Street Scene) The Safer Cleaner Green Standing Panel considered this strategy document at their meeting on 9 December and a verbal report on their deliberations will be given at this meeting.

The Committee are asked to comment and endorse the Strategy Document to the next Cabinet meeting.

A copy of the covering report that accompanied the strategy document to the Safer Cleaner Greener Standing Panel is attached for information.

The strategy document will be circulated separately.

10. REPORT OF THE CUSTOMER TRANSFORMATION TASK AND FINISH PANEL (Pages 33 - 60)

(Chairman of Task and Finish Panel). To consider the Final Report of the Panel (attached).

11. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING (Pages 61 - 64)

(a) Updated Schedule

The Committee are asked to note the updated schedule. This reflects the work programme proposed by each Panel. Any changes made under preceding items will be amended in the programme accordingly

(b) Reserve Programme

Recommendation:

To consider a new work request from Councillor Mrs Cooper (attached).

A reserve list of scrutiny topics is required to ensure that the work flow of OSC is continuous. Members can suggest items for the work programme at any time.

OSC will 'pull out' items from the list and allocate them accordingly once space becomes available in the work plan following the completion of existing reviews.

Members can put forward any further suggestions for inclusion in the reserve list either during the meeting or at a later date.

Existing review items will be dealt with first, then time will be allocated to the items contained in the reserve work plan.

Once existing work plan items have been dealt with, scrutiny time will be focused on the items contained in the reserve programme.

12. CABINET REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION:

To consider any items to be raised by the Chairman at the Cabinet meeting on 15 December 2008.

(Assistant to the Chief Executive). Under the Overview and Scrutiny rules the Committee is required to scrutinise proposed decisions of the Executive. The Chairman is also required to report on such discussions to the Cabinet.

The Committee is asked to consider the 15 December 2008 Cabinet agenda (previously circulated) to see whether there are any items that they wished to be raised at the Cabinet meeting.

13. 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.