

Overview and Scrutiny Committee **Thursday, 16th April, 2009**

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"

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

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

4. 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.

5. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 26)

Decisions required:

To confirm the minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 5 March 2009 (attached).

6. SCRUTINY OF ESSEX POLICE - UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT

(Deputy Chief Executive) From time to time the OSC invites in Essex Police to discuss local policing issues. The last liaison took place on 6th March 2008 and focused on the Neighbourhood Policing Initiative.

As part of these arrangements, Superintendent Williams and Chief Inspector Ray have been invited to the Committee to update Members on current work and answer Members questions.

7. SCRUTINY OF CABINET FORWARD PLAN (Pages 27 - 36)

Recommendation:

To discuss the Cabinet priorities for the year ahead and the forward work programme for 2009/10.

The Overview and Scrutiny rules state that this Committee should ..'arrange meetings with the Leader and other Portfolio Holders to discuss their plans for the year ahead and... agree with them on any items for inclusion in the work programme which may be undertaken by the Committee on the Cabinets behalf'.

Accordingly attached is the Executives Key Priority Objectives for 2009/10.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs D Collins has indicated that they have the following priorities for this year:

- (i) To help mitigate the impact of the current economic conditions on local people and businesses, through appropriate initiatives. In addition, there are a further 18 objectives split between the nine Portfolios detailed in the Best Value Performance Plan for 2008/09.
- (ii) To improve access to and information about the Council's services, through the implementation of a Customer Transformation Programme.
- (iii) To ensure the Council provides good value for money, through the development of a comprehensive Value For Money Strategy;
- (iv) To achieve accreditation for the Council's Environment and Neighbourhood Officers under the Essex Police Community Safety Accreditation Scheme by June 2009;
- (v) To complete the strategic review of North Weald Airfield, through the continuing work of the North Weald Airfield Strategy Cabinet Committee;
- (vi) The delivery of a Gypsy and Traveller Development Plan.

In addition there are a further 20 objectives split between the nine Portfolios as detailed in the attached Key Objectives for 2009/10.

The Leader and Portfolio Holders have been invited to attend this meeting to present their plans and answer questions on their work.

8. CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS (Pages 37 - 40)

(Chairman of the Planning Services Standing Panel) to consider the attached report of the Planning Services Standing Panel.

9. 2008-2009 - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 41 - 86)

(Deputy Chief Executive) To consider the attached report.

10. REVIEW OF LONDON UNDERGROUND PASSES (Pages 87 - 92)

(Director of Finance and ICT) At their February 2009 meeting, the Council asked that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider a motion moved by Councillor D Bateman to ensure that a review be carried out examining the introduction of free London Underground passes for residents in the District, aged 65 years and above, to include the Central Line to Epping.

At the 5th March 2009 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, members asked for a report to be submitted, looking at the feasibility of free London Underground passes for district residents aged 65. This report is attached.

11. REVIEW OF TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIPS (Pages 93 - 106)

(Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder) To receive an update on the Districts Town Centre Partnerships from the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder.

12. PUBLICITY CODE CONSULTATION (Pages 107 - 112)

(Deputy Chief Executive) To receive a report on the outcome of the Publicity Code Consultation document that went to the January 2009 Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

13. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING (Pages 113 - 120)

(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) Next Year's Work Programme

To consider any late requests to go into next year's Work Programme.

(c) Reserve Programme

A reserve list of scrutiny topics is required to ensure that the work flow of OSC is continuous.

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, and then time will be allocated to the items contained in the reserve work plan.

Any space within the work plan is filled on an ongoing basis.

14. CABINET REVIEW

RECOMMENDATION:

To consider any items to be raised by the Chairman at the Cabinet meeting on 20 April 2009.

(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 20 April 2009 Cabinet agenda (previously circulated) to see whether there are any items that they wished to be raised at the Cabinet meeting.

15. 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.