

Scrutiny Standing Panel Agenda



Constitution and Members Services Scrutiny Standing Panel Monday, 29th June, 2009

Place: Committee Room 1

Time: 7.30 pm

Democratic Services Officer: I Willett - The Office of the Chief Executive
Tel: 01992 564243 Email: iwillett@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Councillors Mrs M McEwen (Chairman), J Philip (Vice-Chairman), Mrs P Brooks, Ms J Hedges, J Knapman, J Markham, G Mohindra, R Morgan, D Stallan, Mrs M Sartin and Mrs J H Whitehouse

A BRIEFING FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PANEL WILL BE HELD AT
7.00 PM PRIOR TO THE MEETING

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 5 - 16)

The notes of the last meeting held on 6 April 2009 are attached.

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

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

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(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. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 17 - 20)

(Chairman/Lead Officer) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has agreed the Terms of Reference of this Panel and associated Work Programme. This is attached. The Panel are asked at each meeting to review both documents.

The OSC is about to formulate next years OS work plan incorporating a programme for this Panel. In view of this, the Panel may wish to bring forward suggestions/ideas on topics for inclusion in its work programme for next year.

6. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW (Pages 21 - 28)

(Assistant to the Chief Executive). Overview and Scrutiny has been subject to regular review since its inception. This year the review contains a number of issues which can be broken down into a number of distinct elements:

- (i) Current legislative provisions that require us to review our constitutional arrangements;
- (ii) A forward look to forthcoming legislation and its efforts on the operation of Overview and Scrutiny;
- (iii) A discussion on points raised by members and officers this year; and
- (iv) Issues arising from (iii) that might require changes to the Constitution and/or operational arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny.

Current Legislative Changes

- (1) Councillor Call for Action (Review undertaken by this Panel on 6 April 2009).
- (2) Police and Justice Act 2006 – Community Safety Committees (Review undertaken by this Panel on 6 April 2009).

Forthcoming Legislation

- (3) Briefing on Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill (Review undertaken by Panel on 6 April 2009).

Issues Raised by Members and Officers

- (4) Operation Review of Overview and Scrutiny 2009. (Review by Panel partially completed on 6 April 2009. The next section for discussion, following the last meeting of the Panel, is “Reports by Chairmen of Panels” on page 25 of the agenda).

7. OFFICER DELEGATION - PLANNING APPLICATIONS: COMMENTS BY TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS (Pages 29 - 30)

(Assistant to the Chief Executive). To consider the attached report.

8. REVIEW OF EUROPEAN, COUNTY, DISTRICT AND PARISH ELECTIONS

(Returning Officer). Report to follow.

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

To consider which reports are ready to be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its next meeting.

10. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next programmed meeting of the Panel will be held on 14 September 2009 at 7.30p.m. in Committee Room 1 and then on:

2 November 2009;
11 January 2010; and
22 March 2010