

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MINUTES

Committee:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date:	Thursday, 6 November 2008
Place:	Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping	Time:	7.30 - 9.45 pm
Members Present:	Councillors R Morgan (Chairman), K Chana, M Colling, A Green, J Hart, D Jacobs, G Mohindra, Mrs C Pond and Mrs J H Whitehouse		
Other Councillors:	Councillors Mrs D Collins, Mrs R Gadsby, Mrs M McEwen, Ms S Stavrou and J M Whitehouse		
Apologies:	Councillors K Angold-Stephens, Mrs P Richardson, B Rolfe and Mrs L Wagland		
Officers Present:	D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive), C O'Boyle (Director of Corporate Support Services), J Gilbert (Director of Environment and Street Scene), J Preston (Director of Planning and Economic Development), C Overend (Policy & Research Officer), S G Hill (Senior Democratic Services Officer), P Tredgett (Information Assistant), M Jenkins (Democratic Services Assistant) and G J Woodhall (Democratic Services Officer)		
By Invitation:	A Cowie, Director of Public Health, West Essex Primary Care Trust and A Rohilla, Acting Localities Director of the Primary Care Trust		

34. 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.

35. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillor Mrs C Pond was substituting for Councillor K Angold-Stephens (Vice Chairman) and Councillor K Chana was substituting for Councillor B Rolfe.

36. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

37. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2008 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- (a) the first sentence of the 20th paragraph of minute 28 (Call-in – "Call for Sites" Council-owned land to be submitted for consideration as future

residential land) to read “Councillor Mrs Richardson asked when would the complete list be available and why a covenant would be a barrier to consideration of Ongar school playing field?”; and

(b) the first sentence of the 21st paragraph of minute 28 to read: “Councillor Mrs Richardson said she was contacted two years ago by a resident who had met a private building firm representative going around measuring up.”

38. THE MAKING AND ENFORCEMENT OF BYELAWS - CONSULTATION

The Director of Corporate Support Services, Ms C O’Boyle, presented a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding “The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws – Consultation.” In April 2006 a discussion paper was issued by the then Office of the Deputy Prime Minister entitled “Local Authority Byelaws in England: Procedure for Making, Confirming and Enforcing Byelaws.” The conclusions arising from this discussion paper were that it was not always effective for central government to be involved in confirming byelaws which dealt with local matters. There had been much support for enforcement of byelaws through a fixed penalty mechanism rather than prosecution through the Magistrate’s Court.

Following on from this, the Department for Communities and Local Government was seeking views from local authorities involved in the byelaw making process on specific proposals. The deadline response to the consultation paper was 20 November 2008.

It was proposed that the Director of Corporate Support Services reply to the questions in the consultation paper after feedback from the members. To this end, an item had been put in the Bulletin with the eight questions listed and an appropriate answer.

RESOLVED:

That, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee members considered and commented directly to the Director of Corporate Support Services on the proposed responses to the questions posed in the attached consultation paper "Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power: The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws".

39. HEALTH AND INEQUALITIES PRESENTATION

Ms Alison Cowie, Director of Public Health, West Essex Primary Care Trust, gave a presentation to the Committee on the Health Profile of the Epping Forest District. Accompanying Ms Cowie was Ms Anurita Rohilla, Acting Localities Director of the Primary Care Trust.

Ms Cowie began by outlining the general picture of health in the district. There were established health patterns for a variety of reasons.

The district was diverse, the population being generally older. The number of 15 – 34 year olds in the district was lower than the national average. This maybe because younger people had moved out of the area, perhaps to go to university, and on returning had then found that the cost of living in the area was too high and had not moved back. There was a smaller than average Black and Minority ethnic community. The largest group within this being Black and Asian, 9%, who were concentrated in the south of the district. Epping Forest District was generally more

affluent than many of its neighbours, for example Harlow, but despite this, there were pockets of deprivation within Waltham Abbey and Loughton, which were as deprived as Harlow. There were six small areas in Essex which had been designated as most deprived, one of these was Loughton Broadway ward.

Ms A Cowie then went on to inform the Committee that life expectancy in Epping Forest District for males and females was above average and was increasing year by year. However, across Essex, amongst the areas with the shorter life expectancy was Waltham Abbey and Limes Farm. The death rates in the District from all causes was below the national average and falling, however, Waltham Abbey had the highest mortality rate in Essex. Cancer rates were falling across the district, but again, there were particular small areas where rates were higher, smoking being the biggest cause of death.

There were various methods of closing the health divide, however it was argued that stop smoking campaigns and general improvements to health provision would not in themselves reduce underlying health inequalities. The environment in which people live, their lifestyle and general behaviour required closer attention.

Following the presentation, the members discussed the issues raised. Councillor Mrs R Gadsby expressed her alarm at the statistics in the presentation which concerned the Waltham Abbey area. A strong message needed to go out on stopping smoking. Ms A Cowie said that Waltham Abbey and Harlow had emerged as health improvement priority areas. Survey work had shown that men in Harlow often smoked in response to personal problems and quality of life issues. Therefore smoking cessation was made more difficult.

Members requested a copy of the coloured maps from the presentation, Ms A Cowie said she would make the maps available to members.

Members asked how it was possible for a strategic direction to be undertaken in dealing with deprivation if there were different agencies delivering the same types of service. Ms A Cowie said the Local Strategic Partnership had a key role in bringing together all interested parties. The Partnership had signed up to Local Area Agreements which set a number of targets, these looked at areas such as killed and injured in road accidents as well as adult participation in sport and exercise across the district.

Councillor Mrs D Collins said the presentation had been helpful. She felt that people may be coming back to smoking. Although men were not dying as much as women from respiratory problems was still a major cause of premature death. There had been a lot of work to stop smoking, for example the cost of cigarettes had gone up. The problem was that there were so many areas to contend with so too broad a brush would miss out specifics. Things needed to go forward step by step.

Ms A Cowie agreed that a lot of resources had gone into stopping people from smoking. There was a prevalence amongst young women smoking. Stop smoking programmes needed advertising in more creative ways. There was support for people wishing to stop smoking, for example the Smokers Helpline was run nationally. There had been local smoking groups but the uptake had been low, so now only 1 to 1 groups were taking place and 2 to 1 groups in Harlow.

Councillor Ms S Stavrou asked about the "postcode lottery" in drug availability. How did the Primary Care Trust compare to the rest of the country? Ms A Cowie had to defer the answer to a later Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Mrs J Whitehouse drew the Committee's attention to the agenda report, Health Inequalities Audit 2007/08, concerning the mixed picture across the country that existed regarding health inequalities. She felt that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should take these issues seriously and invite the relevant Portfolio Holder and Directors of Health Services should be considered on the work programme.

There was concern that schools needed to be targeted on health issues. Ms A Cowie confirmed that health was part of the national schools programme and education was being picked as a key area.

Councillor J Whitehouse felt that health inequalities was very much part of the wider issue around social inequality. He asked about the link between mental health and deprivation. Ms A Cowie said that there was a link, people's mental health was affected by their lifestyle, mental health problems were higher amongst black and other minority groups.

The Chairman thanked Ms A Cowie and Ms A Rohilla for their presentation. The Deputy Chief Executive, Mr D Macnab, informed the Committee that this item was being put back on the Work Programme and a report concerning local delivery of health services and issues around health inequalities would come back to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That, the key issues identified in the presentation by the Director of Public Health be noted; and
- (2) That, the Committee confirmed the Council's commitment to work in Partnership with others to address Health Inequalities for our community and deliver the aspirations of the Joint Action Plan for Health Inequalities across Essex.

40. GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION - WEEKEND VOTING

Councillor Mrs M McEwen, Chairman of the Constitutional Affairs and Members' Services Panel, presented a report to the Committee on the Government Consultation regarding Weekend Voting which had been considered at the Panel's meeting on 8 September 2008. Councillor Mrs M McEwen advised the Committee that the Panel's answers to the consultation had already been submitted to the Government, in advance of the Government's 26 September 2008 deadline. This report would have been put before the Overview and Scrutiny Committee sooner, but the Committee's meeting in late September had been cancelled. Councillor Mrs M McEwen informed the Committee that the Panel had not agreed with the concept of Weekend Voting.

RESOLVED:

That, the views expressed by the Constitutional Affairs and Members' Services Scrutiny Standing Panel, in respect of the Government Consultation Document submitted to the Ministry of Justice in line with its deadline of 26 September 2008, be noted and agreed.

41. COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL: REAL PEOPLE, REAL POWER : CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The Policy and Research Officer, Mr C Overend, presented a report to the Committee regarding the Government Consultation White Paper "Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power." The White Paper had been published in July 2008 and set out a range of policies with a view to returning power to local communities. It had agreed a series of consultation papers covering the following aspects:

- Improving Local Accountability;
- Making and Enforcing Byelaws;
- A Revised Code of Conduct for Members;
- Mayors;
- Time-off Entitlements; and
- Local Government Publicity.

The paper covered the development and strengthening of Overview and Scrutiny, the new powers holding local officers to account and the facilitating of the Councillor's work. The focus of the paper was on ways of improving participation for local people in making decisions and to improve the representation of communities.

The specific areas which needed comments and the Committee's response were as follows:

(a) Developing and strengthening Overview and Scrutiny through the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health 2007 Act particularly in relation to the LAA and the delivery of LAA improvement targets.

Committee Response – The Committee were supportive of developing and strengthening Overview and Scrutiny, particularly in relation to the review of Local Area Agreements (LAA) and delivery of LAA improvement targets.

(b) Do you agree with the concept of being able to require information from partner authorities/organisations?

Committee Response – The Committee agreed with the concept of being able to require information from partner authorities and organisations and that this should work both ways, for example, in a two tier arrangement where the District and Borough Councils were able to require information from County and vice versa.

(c) Which information in published scrutiny reports and recommendations should be exempt or confidential?

Committee Response – The Committee felt that scrutiny reports and recommendations should only be exempt or confidential only when there were clear reasons for that being the case, otherwise they should be discussed in the public domain.

The following two questions (d) and (e), were taken together.

(d) Do you agree with the idea of joint County and District Overview and Scrutiny Committees? Should these be "Task and Finish" or cover issues on an ongoing

basis? If so, which issues? What issues would need to be considered as part of any such arrangements?

(e) Do you agree with the proposal to enable District Scrutiny Committees to review the delivery of LAA targets?

Committee Response – The Panel felt that these issues should be left as they were. The District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee and panels can ask County Council representatives to its meetings to answer questions, but only liaison was feasible rather than a joint initiative. The Deputy Chief Executive, Mr D Macnab advised that the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee was discussing LAA partnerships.

(f) How could the visibility of the scrutiny function be increased?

Committee Response – The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was regularly webcast and more use in general could be made of webcasting facilities at local authority Overview and Scrutiny and other Committee meetings.

(g) How might the visibility and accountability of local public officers be increased so that they are all open to public scrutiny? For example should the Chairman and Chief Executives of local bodies attend regular public hearings? Should there be a right for local people to petition to hold officers to account?

Committee Response - The Committee felt that senior figures within County Council and other authorities, had too large a portfolio to be expected to attend District Council scrutiny committees regularly. There was also provision for the public to attend a variety of public meetings where these bodies regularly met.

(h) Could anything be done to assist the work of Councillors by modernising the way they do business to enable them to use information and communications technology to participate in meetings and vote remotely?

Committee Response – The Committee felt that it was not practical for members to vote remotely, it was better for them to be present at the meeting. Common law stipulated that at least three people needed to be present for a meeting to be convened.

(i) Should appeals in respect of a local authority's response to a petition be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee? What practical issues might arise?

Committee Response – The Committee were advised that the District Council's petition system was regarded as robust. There would be a resources issue if the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were considering petitions as well.

(j) Should the scope of the scheme be agreed locally by the various partners? Would this be an effective means of empowering communities?

Committee Response – The Committee felt that the District Council's partners would need to sign up. The Council could not demand of them to attend.

(k) Do you agree with the proposal to allow authorities to modify their attendance and voting procedures to allow "remote" viewing?

Committee Response – The Committee felt this was not practical, scrutiny usually requires a face to face contact discussion.

RESOLVED:

That, the responses of the Committee be submitted to the Government.

42. REPORT OF THE VALUE FOR MONEY IN PLANNING TASK AND FINISH PANEL

Councillor K Chana, Vice Chairman of the Planning Services Scrutiny Standing Panel, presented the report of the Task and Finish Panel, concerning value for money within Planning Services.

The Finance and Performance Management Panel had prompted the setting up of a Task and Finish Panel for consideration of value for money and performance issues within Planning services. This had been because of a number of decisions of the Council concerning the expending of resources in the 2005 re-structure, the Panel was tasked, in particular, with examining ICT improvements and in dealing with a backlog of planning applications.

The Task and Finish Panel had commenced its work in October 2007 with the continuing work carried forward into the Standing Scrutiny Panel for Planning Services when it was set up in the current municipal year. The Panel had chosen to update a 2001 Best Value Review of the Development Control functions. That had been done in such a way that it ensured there was a complete time series of data which was being revised annually.

A key finding of the Panel was that planning provided value for money in its development control functions in comparison with other council planning services. The Standing Panel had continued to scrutinise other services provided by this Directorate within its agreed terms of reference. However the Directorate continued to face major challenges, a major one being delivery of a sound Local Development Framework. Another challenge was the Gypsy and Traveller Consultation.

The Directorate also faced challenges such as recruitment and retention of staff. This was seen as an opportune moment to start developing an improvement plan for the Directorate, which would help focus priorities for the next eighteen months. Such an Improvement Plan was a good way of showing a present position and guiding the work of the Directorate in that time. A key part of the original best value ethos was securing continuous improvement. The Planning Services Scrutiny Panel were asked to develop such a plan and add it to that Panel's Terms of Reference.

The Planning Sub-Committees were now meeting every three weeks which had put the District Council within the top quartile.

RESOLVED:

- (1). That, the conclusions and recommendations contained within the report be agreed; and
- (2). That, the Planning Services Standing Panel develop an Improvement Plan for the Planning Directorate.

43. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - SIX MONTH REVIEW

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee carried out its six month review of the Standing and Task and Finish Panels

(a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Item (6) North West Essex PCT – Proposal for Joint Scrutiny Review

Harlow Council members had expressed an interest in undertaking a piece of health scrutiny jointly with Uttlesford and Epping Forest.

The report was being made to each of the three authorities' scrutiny committees, confirming that they wished to pursue the joint health scrutiny idea and sought ideas for topics for the review and appoint members to attend meetings.

Item (7) District Transport in Rural Areas

The survey on district transport had been completed and sent to the County Council for action. The Committee would receive a report after the County Council had considered the survey findings. This item was linked to item 14 of the six month review, regarding the Essex County Council Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transportation, Councillor N Hume coming to the Committee in January 2009 to speak on rural bus services. It was felt useful that the County Council's Portfolio Holder should comment on the results of the survey and the County Council's response to it.

Item (8) Scrutiny of Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership – Chairman and Member Level EFDC representatives.

This item was scheduled for the January 2009 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However the Deputy Chief Executive, Mr D Macnab, stated that the restructuring of the Board was being discussed at the next LSP Board meeting on 18 December 2008. It was unlikely that the recommendations from that meeting would be ready for the next Overview and Scrutiny meeting. They should go before the March 2009 meeting.

Item (11) The Review of Overview and Scrutiny in January 2009

The Committee felt that Item 11 on the work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be put before the Constitutional Affairs and Members Services Panel.

AGREED:

That, the Review of Overview and Scrutiny, be referred to the Constitutional Affairs and Members' Services Panel.

(b) Housing Standing Panel

No reports or comments were made.

(c) Constitutional and Members Services Scrutiny Standing Panel

The Panel's Chairman, Councillor Mrs M McEwen told the Panel that at its meeting on 3 November 2008, Civic Ceremonial functions had been discussed. However they required a further meeting to take place on 4 December 2008 to conclude their discussions on this issue.

(d) Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel

The Committee received a verbal report from Councillor M Colling, the Chairman of the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel, on the Panel's recent work.

The 2 September 2008 meeting of the Panel had discussed the Department of Trade's consultation on the Traffic Management Act 2004 and its application for dropped kerbs. The Panel had resolved that it wanted to use the powers without the need for signs and lines, this would bring the district in line with existing London powers.

The Panel had considered the Government's Green paper "From the Neighbourhood to the National: Policing our Communities Together." The paper had focused on seven key areas which were:

- The Local dimension;
- Reduction of bureaucracy and red tape;
- Development of policing skills in the police workforce;
- Deployment of policing resources;
- Government support for these proposed changes;
- Cross force co-operation; and
- Performance management

The Panel's major concern had been in respect of the creation of another democratic layer through the election of "Crime and Policing Representatives," who were taking the place of current elected members and the Chairs of Safer Community Partnerships. The Panel had felt that this was unnecessary and would confuse rather than improve the present democratic arrangements.

The Council's response to the Green Paper had been published in the Member's Bulletin.

The 21 October 2008 meeting of the Panel had discussed the prospective changes to the Waste Management Service being considered by the cabinet at its meeting in November 2008.

The Panel had received some preliminary feedback from the public consultation exercise which had indicated some acceptance of the need for changing the service and the possible introduction of a second wheeled bin. The changes to the service may have been delayed until October 2009 which resulted in a further year of using bio-degradable sacks for the garden waste service. The cost of this was £400,000 per annum, but there was a consensus view that consideration of a charging regime, to control costs and to constrain garden waste, was needed.

The Panel had received updates on the progress of implementing the Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative which had included:

- Safer Communities Unit now fully staffed;
- Rapid response vehicle purchased and being liveried;
- Safer, Cleaner, Greener Strategy document nearing completion

The Panel also received updates on:

- Latest crime statistics;
- The Essex Joint Municipal Waste Management strategy;

- The Waste management Partnership Board;
- The Nottingham Declaration;
- Bobbingworth Tip;
- County Highway matters; and
- Estate car parking

(e) Planning Services Standing Panel

No reports or comments were made.

(f) Finance and Performance Management Standing Panel

This Panel's report was discussed under Item 14 of the minutes.

(g) Leisure Services Task and Finish Panel

The Chairman of the Leisure Services Task and Finish Panel, Councillor Mrs R Gadsby, presented the Committee with an update on its recent activities. The Panel, at two meetings, had considered issues around youth facilities at Limes Farm and elsewhere in the district. A report on their discussions and recommendations are under Item 11.

The Committee received the progress report of recommendations from the Leisure Task and Finish Panel 2007/08.

AGREED:

That, the Work Programme of the Leisure Task and Finish Panel 2007/08 be agreed and the progress report of the Panel be noted.

(h) Customer Transformation Task and Finish Panel

There were no reports or comments made.

(i) Request for the creation of a Task and Finish Panel

Councillor Mrs J Whitehouse requested that a Task and Finish Panel be created to examine public convenience provision in the district. The Deputy Chief Executive, Mr D Macnab, asked that Councillor Mrs J Whitehouse make a formal request to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee for a Task and Finish Panel to be created.

(j) Subsumed Task and Finish Panels

The Committee were informed that the following Task and Finish Panels had either been subsumed into Standing Panels or disbanded. They were:

- (i) Crime and Disorder Task and Finish Panel 2007/08.

The Panel could not complete its work until the Government had made known the changes it wanted. However the Government had not yet issued any guidance and so the Panel had not met last year.

The work of this Panel had been subsumed by the current Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel

- (ii) Town Centre and Car Parks Task and Finish Panel 2007/08

This Panel had carried over from the year 2006/07 into 2007/08 in order to complete its work programme. Work could not be progressed on its remaining topic, as a result the Panel was disbanded and its outstanding work on Anti-Social Behaviour in Car Parks was added to the Environmental and Planning Services Standing Panel. The Task and Finish Panel was subsumed into the new Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel.

(iii) Provision of Value for Money within Planning Services Task and Finish Panel

The Panel had been halfway through its evidence gathering phase, when in the new municipal year 2008/09, it had been subsumed into the new Planning Services Standing Panel.

AGREED:

That, the three Task and Finish Panels subsumed into larger bodies, be noted.

44. RELOCATION OF SPORTS HALL FACILITIES FROM WALTHAM ABBEY SPORTS CENTRE TO WALTHAM ABBEY SWIMMING POOL

Councillor Mrs R Gadsby, Chairman of the Leisure Task and Finish Panel, informed the Committee that at its meeting on 23 September 2008, it had been asked to consider the feasibility of a proposal whereby it was possible to transfer some of the facilities from the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre, namely the sports hall and changing facilities, to the site of the Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool, a facility owned by the District Council and managed by SLM. The Panel had agreed that officers should go forward with a feasibility proposal for the Cabinet's consideration at its forthcoming meeting on the 10 November 2008.

RESOLVED:

That, the report of the Leisure Task and Finish Panel concerning the transfer of some facilities from Waltham Abbey Sports Centre to Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool be forwarded to the Cabinet for approval.

45. APPOINTMENT OF EFDC REPRESENTATIVE TO COUNTY HEALTH TASK AND FINISH PANEL

Essex County Council's joint Health/NHS Overview and Scrutiny Committee had established a Commissioning of Health Services in West Essex Task and Finish Panel. The County Council had asked the District Council to appoint a representative to sit on the Panel.

The Task and Finish Panel had been established after concerns had been raised by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the provision of GP services in West Essex relating to housing growth, development and capacity, particularly in the light of the recent closure of a branch surgery and proposals to relocate a surgery. In April 2008, the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had proposed a review to look at the strategic commissioning of primary care services, particularly in the light of housing growth, development and capacity ensuring robust plans and infrastructure were in place.

The first meeting of the Panel was held on 23 October 2008. This had been attended by the Deputy Chief Executive and Councillor R Morgan.

RESOLVED:

That, the Full Council be asked to appoint an Epping Forest District Council representative to the County Health Task and Finish Panel be recommended to Full Council.

46. CABINET REVIEW

It was noted that there was nothing to report to the Cabinet.

47. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY PANEL - CHAIRMAN'S PROGRESS REPORT

The Chairman of the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel, Councillor D Jacobs, presented a progress report to the Committee on the Panel's recent work. At its meeting on 20 October 2008, the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel considered proposed targets for the Council's national Indicators and Local Performance Indicators for 2008/09, and performance against the indicators for the first quarter of the year. Consideration of these matters had been deferred from the previous meeting to allow for the compilation of additional detail in relation to the indicators, particularly in regard to expanded descriptions and explanations of the purpose of each indicator, and commentaries from the relevant director in support of the proposed target for the current year and actual first quarter performance.

The Scrutiny Panel was considering second quarter performance against the Council's Key Performance Indicators for 2008/09 at its meeting on 11 November 2008. The Key Performance Indicators focused improvement on key areas and set to achieve comparable performance with that of the top performing local authorities. For 2008/09, the Cabinet had set a target for at least 75% to achieve target performance by the end of the year.

At its meeting on 11 November 2008, the Scrutiny Panel would also consider the second quarter financial monitoring report, and details of the Council's proposed fees and charges for 2009/10. The Panel was reviewing the Capital Programme for 2008/09, and the outcomes arising from the completion of the first Local Area Agreement for Essex.

The Scrutiny Panel had established a sub-group for considering the Council's latest Value for Money Analysis Tool, and to make recommendations for further action to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The sub-group comprised Councillors D Jacobs, G Mohindra and A Watts, they were meeting on 11 November 2008 to consider the Value for Money Analysis Tool. At that meeting directors would make a brief presentation on recent performance and cost comparison. The Analysis Tool had been updated to reflect audited performance information for 2007/08.

CHAIRMAN