

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 16 December 2008

Subject: OS report to Council – December 2008

Chairman: Councillor Richard Morgan



Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report from September 2008 to the present be noted.

The main Overview and Scrutiny Committee

September 2008 Meeting:

1. This meeting was cancelled.

November 2008 Meeting:

2. The meeting received a presentation from Ms Alison Cowie, Director of Public Health, West Essex Primary Care Trust on the Health Profile of the Epping Forest District. Ms Anurita Rohilla the Acting Localities Director of the Primary Care Trust accompanied her. Ms Cowie outlined the current health picture of the district, indicating the generally good health of the majority of the populous of the district and a few of the black spots of the district. The members at the meeting found the presentation very interesting and informative.

3. The meeting also considered reports on the Making and Enforcement of Byelaws; on Government Consultation on Weekend Voting – the Committee agreed with the views of the Constitution and Member Services Standing Panel; on Communities in Control: Real People, Real Power: Consultation Document, to which the Committee gave their responses to the various questions posed by the consultation document; and the Relocation of Sports Hall Facilities from Waltham Abbey Sports Centre to Waltham Abbey Swimming Pool, which the Committee endorsed and recommended to the Cabinet.

4. The Committee also undertook its six-month review, reviewing the work undertaken by the Committee, its Standing Panels and the Task and Finish Panels over the last six months as well as the outcomes of last years Standing and Task and Finish Panels.

5. The Committee also considered the appointment of an EFDC representative to the County Health Task and Finish Panel and agreed that the Council should make an appointment at their next meeting.

Standing Panels

6. Five Standing Panels have been constituted this year, each have a rolling programme that consider ongoing cyclical issues and are comprised of:

1. The Housing Standing Panel under the Chairmanship of Councillor S Murray;
2. The Constitution and Members Services Standing Panel chaired by Councillor Mrs McEwen;
3. The Finance and Performance Management Standing Panel chaired by Councillor D

Jacobs;

4. The Safer Cleaner Greener Standing Panel chaired by Councillor M Colling; and
 5. The Planning Services Standing Panel chaired by Councillor Mrs Wagland.
7. The Housing Standing Panel had met in October 2008 when they considered Parking Enforcement on Housing Estates and a report on the Allocation Schemes for 2008.
8. The Constitution and Members Services Standing Panel met on 3rd November 2008 when they reviewed Contract Standing Orders (relating to Consultants); the Executive Constitution; and a review of the Civil Ceremonial Arrangements.
9. The Finance and Performance Management Standing Panel met on 20th October 2008 when they had a special meeting to consider the National and Local Performance Indicators for 2008/09 – deferred from their last meeting. They next met on 11th November 2008 when they considered the Quarterly Financial Monitoring report; the Essex Local Area Agreement for 2006-08 and 2012-13; the Capital Programme for 2008/09 and 2012-13; the report on Fees and Charges for 2009-10; the Quarter 2 Key Performance Indicators for 2008/09; and the National and Local Performance Indicators.
10. The Safer Cleaner Greener Standing Panel met on 21st October 2008, when they considered the revision of the Waste Management Service and the minutes from the West Essex Waste Management Joint Committee.
11. The Planning Services Standing Panel met on 18th November 2008 when they considered an update on the Local Development Framework, the Planning Directorate Improvement Plan and a Staffing Position Update.

Task and Finish Panels

12. The two new Task and Finish Panels (Customer Transformation and the Leisure Task and Finish Panels) also met to agree their terms of References and their draft work programme for the year ahead and are continuing to meet to further their work programme.
13. The Customer Transformation T&F Panel visited Harlow's One Stop Shop – "Contact Harlow" on 14 October 2008 and held a meeting that same night to discuss their visit. Their final report went to the 11 December Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
14. The Leisure T&F Panel visited Waltham Abbey Sports Centre in September 2008 and submitted a report to the November meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the relocation of the sports hall.