

## **EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Committee:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee      **Date:** Thursday, 16 April 2009

**Place:** Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping      **Time:** 7.30 - 10.28 pm

**Members Present:** R Morgan (Chairman), K Chana, M Colling, D Jacobs, G Mohindra, Mrs C Pond, Mrs P Richardson, B Rolfe, Mrs P Smith, Mrs L Wagland and Mrs J H Whitehouse

**Other Councillors:** Mrs A Haigh, R Bassett, D Bateman, Mrs D Collins, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs M McEwen, Mrs M Sartin, Ms S Stavrou, C Whitbread and J M Whitehouse

**Apologies:** - K Angold-Stephens, A Green and J Hart

**Officers Present:** D Macnab (Deputy Chief Executive), I Willett (Assistant to the Chief Executive), R Palmer (Director of Finance and ICT), J Preston (Director of Planning and Economic Development), C Wiggins (Safer Communities Manager), S G Hill (Senior Democratic Services Officer), P Tredgett (Information Assistant), A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer), M Jenkins (Democratic Services Assistant) and G J Woodhall (Democratic Services Officer)

**Also in attendance:** S Williams and C Carrington

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### **86. 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.

### **87. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was noted that Councillor K Chana had substituted for Councillor A Green, Councillor Mrs P Smith had substituted for Councillor J Hart and that Councillor Mrs C Pond had substituted for Councillor Angold-Stephens.

### **88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **89. MINUTES**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2009 be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**90. SCRUTINY OF ESSEX POLICE - UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT**

The Committee received a presentation from Superintendent Simon Williams and Inspector Craig Carrington to inform the members of policing issues affecting the district over the last year.

The officers informed the Committee that crime had been reduced by 11% over the last 12 months, with the detection rate increasing from 27.9 to 29.2% and anti-social behaviour reduced by 24%. The total number of crimes committed in this area by 31 March 2009 was 8,118 this compares favourably with last years figure of 8,850. The Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) figures had also been reduced, for 2007 it was 121 and for 2008 it had reduced to 111; they are working with their partners to continue reducing these figures.

They had carried out a survey around about Christmas time asking just two questions. One was, do you feel safe in this area and the other was, what would you like to be the top Policing priority for your Neighbourhood in 2009? To the question 'do you feel safe in this area' 90 people said yes and 11 said no. Of those that said 'no' the following reasons were given: 3 people said it was because of anti-social behaviour; 2 cited youth nuisance; 2 said knife crime and 1 said the fear of crime.

When broken down, the answers to 'what would you like to be the top Policing priority for your Neighbourhood in 2009' were: Visible Policing (42 people); Youth Nuisance (23 people); none (17 people); Anti-social behaviour (5 people); Community Engagement (4 people); and other (10 people).

The top priority was more visible policing and they needed to set priorities for the 30 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in the district. The Police also run Neighbourhood Action Panels (NAPs) for local communities. A transport NAP had been set up to look at issues around the transport structure. There was also a Youth NAP (for Loughton and Limes Farm) looking at the concerns of violence on young people; an Epping Forest College NAP and a Farmers NAP looking at the priorities and concerns of the rural community. These are not only a first for Epping Forest but for Essex as a whole.

The Chairman said that he was very pleased with the way the Farmers NAP was working.

Over the last year the Police had also tackled alcohol and unlicensed taxis; they have seized alcohol and stopped anti-social behaviour and had addressed the drugs issue in the district by using drug detection dogs. They had started the Limes Farm Special Action Group and extended the CCTV coverage in the district by working in partnership with the Parish and the District Councils. They had also developed a partnership with EFDC Community Development in relation to a football project on Limes Farm with Tottenham Hotspur.

In the last six months they had improved community engagement and are now receiving more information from the community at large.

The Limes Farm Special Action Group has been a key success, achieving a 31% reduction in crime for that area and a 39% reduction in anti-social behaviour. This has been achieved with the assistance of the community and other partners.

The Police were also targeting knife crime in the area. They had purchased two 'knife arches' which were regularly deployed in joint operations with the British Transport

Police. The arches were portable and easily and quickly deployed to various sites and had been used at clubs, education establishments and tube stations.

They were also involved in education such as their 'staying safe' presentation at Epping Forest College. They have identified various ways forward, such as:

- to increase detection rates;
- to pursue offenders;
- to reduce crime rates even further by using CCTV and other prevention measures (CCTV van and the automatic number plate reader);
- closer working with the Metropolitan Police;
- they are looking to further reduce KSIs on the roads of the District; and
- the use of more of their assets such as special constables.

The Chairman then opened up the meeting to questions from the members attending.

**Q:** Residents were concerned about responses to reported crimes, has there been an improvement and are you working more effectively now.

**A:** We now have a centralised switchboard which should speed things along. There is also a policing pledge in place and the mobile numbers for neighbourhood police officers had been publicised. If they are not on duty when called, they will get back to the caller within twenty four hours. There is a 20 minute response time for emergency calls. More feedback from NAPs would be useful, at present there is some apathy.

**Q:** The youths of the district generally have football activities organised for them, but what about non sporting activities?

**A:** In Harlow they have a youth bus that has games consuls and are staffed by PCSO, in which they target 'hot spots'. It is used as a meeting point and helps take some of the youths off the streets. We are awaiting the final outcome to this new project.

**Q:** Will we get some consistency in personnel?

**A:** There has been a problem in the Epping Forest District, most of which is out of our control. The public want to know who their neighbourhood bobby is, so local PCs have to stay for at least two years. But such promises can't be made around the command structure.

**Q:** The Ongar area has a good local officer, but he has a wide area to police, could another officer be put in there?

**A:** This officer is supported by two community support officers. This is a wide area but he is supported by a team.

**Q:** Zero tolerance is exercised in Brentwood; and Ongar is now being invaded by the youths from Brentwood. What could be done?

**A:** We have just launched a new operation to target key points on our borders on Friday and Saturday nights.

**Q:** How does the detection rate of 29.2% compare to other areas?

**A:** I do not have the information to hand, but believe that Harlow is about 41% and Brentwood about 31%. But Epping Forest has a wide rural area in the north and an urban one in the south, making it difficult to police.

**Q:** The Community Support Officers are well received; only one criticism, why have they not got more powers. Can their powers be extended?

**A:** They do have a whole menu of powers available to them, but it is Central Government that decides on what powers they have.

**Q:** The Neighbourhood Action Panel's effectiveness seems to be random. The one in Chigwell does not work, can you look again at how they are organised and could district council representatives be put on them?

**A:** We will have a look at it in term of representatives on NAPs; they are key for interaction with the community.

**Q:** Local Policemen have said that burglary was going up, is this right and what is being done.

**A:** There is a national rise in burglary; we do not know why this is happening. The message needs to go out to the community. Hot spots will be flooded with officers and we will use the automatic number plate readers to keep track of them. Currently we are targeting tube stations and bogus callers on elderly people.

**Q:** Can you tell us how our Safer Community Team works with you, do you have any criticisms. Also how is the work with Crucial Crew going?

**A:** The safer Community Partnership is one of the most effective teams that we have worked with. They are involved in the widest terms and are woven into the daily business of the Western Division. They attend daily briefings and are extremely effective.

As for Crucial Crew, this will start in June at Gilwell Park. The ambulance service will also attend as last year, there will be a drugs line, Essex County Council on anti-social behaviour busses. The Reality Road Show will work with year nines at schools.

**Q:** Is staffing in Loughton up to strength?

**A:** Yes it is, although there is a vacancy for a sergeant.

**Q:** The government has brought in some cutbacks such as less cover in weekends and public holidays, is that so here?

**A:** Essex Police is increasing its establishment of officers. There is a promise to increase it by 600 in the next two years and spread them around Essex. But we are funded by the public purse and there will inevitably be drops in funding; but we promise to keep to our minimum staffing levels and not fall below this.

Superintendent Williams reminded the members that there was a ride-along scheme in operation so that Councillors could ride along with police officers. If they wish to do so they should contact Inspector Carrington or Alan Ray.

The Chairman thanked Superintendent Williams and Inspector Carrington for coming and giving an informative talk and answering the questions put to them. He congratulated them on what they had achieved so far.

## **91. SCRUTINY OF CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Collins introduced the Cabinet's forward plan for the coming year ahead. She indicated that the Cabinet had the following key priorities for the coming year:

- (i) To help mitigate the impact of the current economic conditions on local people and businesses, through appropriate initiatives.
- (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 Travellers Development Plan.
- (vii) To work with Essex County Council, Epping Forest College and local schools to further the educational opportunities and facilities for the local young people.
- (viii) To complete all the outstanding parking reviews within the District.

It was noted that there were an additional 20 further objectives split between the nine Portfolios.

Councillor Mrs Wagland commenting on priority two, '...implementation of a Customer Transformation Programme...' recommended that the Council should try and avoid 'one-stop-shops'. Councillor Mrs Collins replied that it would be difficult for the district as there are centres of population spread all over and we do not have one big town.

Councillor Mrs Richardson said that there was always a long wait for the Finance reception area. Councillor Mrs Collins agreed that the Council needed to update itself and modernise its customer systems.

Councillor Mrs Richardson referring to item 14 '...development of The Broadway in Loughton...' said they were still waiting for phase two. Councillor Mrs Collins said if they had the money they would do it. They were looking to finishing off The Broadway as soon as possible. Only after that could they look at anything else.

Councillor Mrs Haigh was pleased about the parking review. She added that they were nine months behind at Buckhurst Hill and the Council needed to continue to push on this. She was pleased with the support for education and would like to ask County to put a 6<sup>th</sup> form college in our area. Councillor Mrs Collins replied that County was getting very involved but we were not going to get a new 6<sup>th</sup> form college in the short term. We had to continue working with Epping Forest College today. This was difficult at present as there was no permanent principal in post, just an acting one.

Councillor Mrs Haigh then asked about item 13 '...financial support provided to private occupiers...' was this money ringfenced and should it be advertised. The Director of Finance and ICT said there were specific capital grants to be used only for that purpose. Officers had to be put in post to deal with the spending of these grants. A report would go to Cabinet on how to deal with this.

Councillor Mrs Smith, referring to the first item on '...the impact of the current economic conditions...' asked would it be possible to consult with business by arranging a forum for business people so that they could exchange information. Councillor Mrs Collins said they had discussed this with a member of the small business federation through the LSP who had established a Task and Finish Panel on this matter.

Councillor Mrs Smith expressed the hope that the executives priorities were not set in stone and could be reordered if found necessary. Councillor Mrs Collins said she would keep it under review.

Councillor Bateman referred to item 25 ‘...provide improved facilities at Limes Farm Hall...’ and asked if funds were available now and when would work commence. Councillor Mrs Collins said that Limes Farm Hall was a partnership programme. It had been neglected for many years and was now a major job that needed a lot of capital. The Deputy Chief Executive added that last month an external application for £1.7 million had been made in relation to Limes Farm. There is a sum of £25,000 to meet the backlog on maintenance for the hall.

Councillor Mrs Haigh said she was on the board for the local children’s centre at Limes Farm. It was difficult to access IT equipment, could the £25,000 be used partly for this as it would make a big difference. She was told that it was mainly the responsibility of the County and she should write to the appropriate officer putting this forward as a suggestion and it would feed through. The £25,000 was only for the maintenance of the hall.

Councillor Jon Whitehouse said it was helpful to have these commitments. It would be helpful to know which objectives would be carried out regardless. Councillor Mrs Collins said that things could change very quickly; they were trying to be strategic.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Cabinet priorities for the year ahead and the forward work programme for 2009/10 be noted.

**92. CONSIDERATION OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Councillor Mrs Wagland, the Chairman of the Planning Services Scrutiny Standing Panel introduced the report resulting from Councillor Cooper’s request to scrutiny to clarify some planning matters. The Planning Panel having considered her request, judged that the points raised should be presented as a set of ‘frequently asked questions’ (FAQs) document so that a wider audience would be aware of the points.

**RESOLVED:**

That the ‘frequently asked questions’ document on Planning be noted.

**93. 2008-2009 - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee received the amended annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2008/09 incorporating comments made at their meeting of 5 March 2009.

Councillor Mrs Collins commended the report saying that Overview and Scrutiny had undertaken a lot of work in the last year and they should be congratulated on the variety of work completed.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report for 2008/09 reporting the work undertaken during the past municipal year be agreed and submitted to the Full Council at its meeting on 28 April 2009.

**94. REVIEW OF LONDON UNDERGROUND PASSES**

Before the Committee began discussing the report, the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor R Morgan, received a petition from Councillor D Bateman on behalf of residents who were in favour of Concessionary Travel on those parts of the London Underground extending into the district.

The Committee then received a report from Mr B Palmer, Director of Finance and ICT, regarding Concessionary Travel on London Underground.

The Epping Forest District has several London Underground stations within its boundaries. This had meant that holders of a Freedom Pass could travel free to and from Epping, but residents of the district could not travel free into London. This was perceived as unfair, particularly if they lived close to either an Underground station or the border with a London Borough.

The Freedom Pass Scheme was not extended to cover the district and any similar concession would be prohibitively expensive. The Members were informed that in pursuing a more limited scheme, negotiations with Transport for London (TfL) would need to take place. However before any such negotiations took place clear instructions were needed from members on the scope of any proposed concession.

The Cabinet had decided on 9 March 2009, to enter into an agreement with Essex County Council under which the County Council had taken over the strategic administration and co-ordination of the bus pass scheme. This had fixed the amounts payable by Epping Forest District Council for 2009/10 and 2010/11.

In response to a petition from a number of residents, wanting an extension to the Freedom Pass Scheme, the Full Council meeting on 17 February 2009, had resolved that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should recognise the real benefit to local people of introducing free passes for District residents aged 65 and over, to include the Central Line to Epping. They requested that a Task and Finish Panel be established ensuring a review was completed.

However, at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 March 2009, members asked for a report on the feasibility of free London Underground passes for district residents aged 65 and over. After the meeting, a number of Councillors asked for a further meeting with the Portfolio Holder for Civil Engineering and Maintenance to ensure that their views were included in any report.

The 2006 Budget announced that the statutory minimum for concessionary schemes was being extended to free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England from 1 April 2008. At the Cabinet meeting of 14 April 2008 it was decided that the benefits provided to pass holders in the district should exceed those set out in the National Scheme. The National Scheme had a start time of 9.30am, and did not include companion, the scheme within the district had a 9am start and offered companion passes.

This enhancement to the previous scheme, meant residents travelled free into London on TfL buses. The new scheme had proved very popular with residents as the number of passes in issue had increased from 10,500 to 16,000, which represented approximately 60% of residents entitled to a pass.

The strategic administration and co-ordination of the bus pass scheme had been transferred to Essex County Council for 2009/10 and 2010/11. Under the agreement, all districts retained the responsibility for issuing passes and dealing with enquiries from the public. Essex County Council would fund the central administration costs of the scheme and would also fund increases in costs.

By fixing the district contributions to a central pool, this agreement had considerably reduced the financial risk until the end of March 2011. At that point it was anticipated that the government would pass the administration of the National Scheme to either a national body or a small number of regional bodies. This change would involve another re-working of the grant allocation formulae. However the Council had not always benefitted from such changes.

Members had previously been advised that under existing legislation it was not possible for this Council to join the Freedom Pass Scheme. To re-confirm this, the Director of Finance and ICT approached London Councils, who co-ordinated the scheme. The Programme Director for Transport and Mobility confirmed that the scheme was operated under the Greater London Authority Act 1999 and as such it was not possible for this Council to join.

Even though the Council could not issue Freedom Passes it was worth considering their costs, as doing so provided an indication of the possible costs of any similar scheme. The total cost of the Freedom Passes Scheme in 2008/09 would be £270 million for the 1,053,000 passes issued. The charge for each Borough depended on the average use made of the passes issued by them and this produced a range of costs from £242 to £278 per pass. If the Council was negotiating a pass similar to a Freedom Pass for a cost of £280 per pass, and the 26,500 residents aged over 60 wanted one the cost would be £7.42 million. Given that the Council's precept for 2009/10 was £7.94 million, a scheme closely mirroring the Freedom Pass was not feasible.

Following the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5 March 2009, a number of Councillors asked to see the Portfolio Holder for Civil Engineering and Maintenance, to discuss possible initiatives. The meeting took place on 27 March 2009 and involved District Councillors R Bassett (Portfolio Holder), D Bateman, K Chana and J Markham, along with County Councillor C Pond, with the Director of Finance and ICT in attendance. The meeting examined proposals concerning various options for the adoption of Freedom Passes. However they concluded that its adoption was impractical.

It was not feasible for the Council to issue Freedom Passes or anything that would closely mirror the benefits provided by them. The costs of any such scheme were prohibitively expensive, currently the emphasis was on identifying savings, not growth items.

Pursuing a more limited scheme was possible, but any such scheme would fail to satisfy resident's demands and would represent an additional burden on the budget. It was advised that members who wished to pursue negotiations with TfL needed to determine a format for a scheme before making any approach. Entering into vague negotiations about an undefined pass was wasting time and effort was also unlikely to have any positive outcomes.

Members thanked B Palmer for his report to the Committee. There was mixed feelings among members regarding the introduction of Freedom Passes, with comments made in favour of a negotiated, smaller scheme which would be less expensive. However it was felt that overall it was not realistic to pursue negotiations with TfL as the district's neighbouring authorities had not shown any interest in joint discussions with TfL either.

**RESOLVED:**



To recommend that the Cabinet does not make any approach to Transport for London to seek negotiations for some form of travel concession on the London Underground for Epping Forest District residents.

## 95. REVIEW OF TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIPS

The Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mrs A Grigg, presented a report to the Committee regarding Town Centre Partnerships.

Members had been concerned about the operation of the Town Centre Partnerships (TCPs), it was felt that there had been mixed messages from them regarding accountability and general progress. It had appeared that the Epping TCP had not been publicising its activities, unlike other TCPs, with invites to residents and people who worked within the district. The original aim had been to encourage the vibrancy of the town through bringing together business, voluntary organisations, residents and Town/District council representatives. The TCPs needed terms of reference, annual reports and forums.

During the 1990s Epping Forest District Council looked to set up partnerships in each of the six main centres of the district, Loughton High Road, Epping, Waltham Abbey, Buckhurst Hill, Loughton The Broadway and Ongar. The Partnerships were created with the aim of bringing together traders, businesses and other key stake holders but, at the same time, they were kept at considerable distance from local authority control. To enable effective partnerships, they were supported annually through financial support and officer resource. Currently the District Council provided support in the form of an administration grant of £1,000 per partnership. Additionally a bid could be made for a Special Projects Grant (SPG) of up to £2,000 per partnership for delivering activities to the benefit of the centre. The SPG fund was £6,000, with bids of up to £2,000, this was successfully increased to raise the benefits and outputs of activities and allow each TCP to access funding. As a significant stakeholder and contributor to the partnership, EFDC had been revising a protocol for the TCPs, outlining minimum requirements for a partnership to operate and run as an independent partnership.

At present, each of the six Town Centre Partnerships were at different stages and operating at varying levels for the benefit of the town centre and the town itself.

The Portfolio Holder informed the Committee that on 31 March 2009, the Epping Town Partnership launched a new website, [www.eppingtcp.com](http://www.eppingtcp.com), which contained a lot of useful information and she urged members to view this website.

### RESOLVED:

That the Town Centre Partnerships' report be noted.

## 96. CONSTITUTION & MEMBER SERVICES STANDING SCRUTINY PANEL (SSP) - 6.4.09

The Chairman of the Constitution and Member Services Standing Panel, Councillor Mrs McEwen, presented a report to the Committee regarding Officer Delegation – Annual Review 2008/09.

Each year the Council reviewed its scheme of Officer Delegation, the changes were regarding delegation in respect of Cabinet functions and changes to functions remaining the responsibility of the Council, this included regulatory and non-executive functions.

A change which was taking effect from 2009/10 was in relation to the approval of delegation of Cabinet functions to officers. Previously, changes had been referred to the Council for approval but it was now the Leader of the Council who determined whether the scheme of officer delegation was continuing, or whether changes were made.

**RESOLVED:**

(1) That the changes to Officer Delegation regarding North Weald Airfield – Non Commercial Lettings (Delegation Reference N2), Licensing – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers (Delegation Reference S1) and Parking Contravention Notices be approved and submitted for adoption by the Leader of Council;

(2) That the proposed changes to Officer Delegation regarding Development Control (Delegation Reference P4) (g) and (h) and Planning Objections by Parish and Town Councils (Delegation Reference P4) be approved and recommended

Councillor Mes McEwen, presented a second report to the Committee regarding the Police and Justice Act 2006 – Community Safety Committees.

Notification had recently been received from the Home Office that it was intended to bring into force Sections 19-21 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 with effect from 30 April 2009. Sections 19-21 were designed to ensure that every local authority would have a committee which would have the following powers:

(a) To review or scrutinise the decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions; and

(b) To make reports or recommendations to a local authority or any other partnership body on the carrying out of those functions.

The timescale provided by the Government for the introduction of Crime and Disorder Committees was extremely short.

The Standing Scrutiny Panel on the “Safer, Cleaner, Greener Initiative” included within its Terms of Reference monitoring of crime and disorder issues.

The Act required the Community Safety Committee to meet on a minimum of two occasions in every 12 months, it was therefore important that the Council considered how this particular requirement was being met. If a new body was established, two dates were included in the calendar of meetings. If an existing body was being designated as the Crime and Disorder Committee it would be necessary to consider having two designated meetings of the body concerned so that the Council was seen to meet the statutory obligations.

**RESOLVED:**

(1) That in regard to the establishment of a Community Safety Committee under the Police and Justice 2006 Act, the Safer, Cleaner, Greener SSP be designated as the Council’s Community Safety Committee; and

- (2) That consideration be given at this Committee's June 2009 meeting to the following:
  - (a) the manner in which the statutory requirement for at least two meetings of the designated Community Safety Committee will be held;
  - (b) co-option arrangements; and
  - (c) the terms of reference of the Community Safety Committee, its membership and other constitutional changes for adoption by the Council.

## **97. PUBLICITY CODE CONSULTATION**

The Deputy Chief Executive, Mr D Macnab, presented a report to the Committee regarding Department of Communities and Local Government consultation on Local Authority Publicity.

At its meeting on 29 January 2009, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee authorised the Constitution and Member Services Panel, to formulate a response to 16 questions from a Government consultation document concerning proposals to change the Code of practice on Local Authority Publicity. In view of the timetable for response, it was not possible to refer the recommendations of the Panel back to Overview and Scrutiny within the Government deadline for return. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the Panel findings should be submitted to the Cabinet for inspection prior to final submission on the deadline of 12 March 2009.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Epping Forest District Council's response to the Government proposals for change to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Publicity, be noted.

## **98. WORK PROGRAMME MONITORING**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer, Mr S Hill, advised the Committee that no responses from members had been received regarding the 2009/10 Work Programme. However members still had the opportunity to ask for items to be put before the Committee via a PICK form.

The Committee were asked which presentations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2008/09 Work Programme should go forward to the 2009/10 Work Programme.

- Item 2 Provision of Youth Services within the District to go to the July 2009 meeting
- Item 5 Review of strategic direction for Epping Forest College to go to the September 2009 meeting
- Item 6 Scrutiny of Epping Forest Local Strategic Partnership to report again next year.
- Item 9 West Essex PCT – Proposal for Joint Scrutiny Review. The Committee noted that legislation was changing the arrangements for joint scrutiny, at

local and county level. There was currently, very limited scrutiny in the neighbouring councils.

- Item 10 District Transport in Rural Area. Final report to come back to this committee in the new year.
- Item 12 Health and Inequalities. Updated report to go to the June 2009 meeting.
- Item 13 Scrutiny of Essex Police – Community Policing Initiative – to remain in the 2009/10 Work Programme.
- Item 15 Scrutiny of London Underground Ltd for the June 2009 meeting.
- Item 16 Scrutiny of Highways Local Service Agreement. The Committee was advised that the Council's new Localism Panel did not stop the committee from scrutinising County Highways. To arrange for autumn 2009.
- Item 17 Presentation from the Fire and Rescue Services. To remain on the 2009/10 Work Programme.
- Item 18 Debt Management Review. The Sub-Committee had its first meeting. They would report back when their work was completed.

**Safer, Cleaner, Greener Standing Panel**

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Panel, scheduled for 21 April 2009, had been cancelled.

**99. CABINET REVIEW**

It was noted that there was no business to report to the Cabinet.

**CHAIRMAN**