

Motions

(a) Epping Forest District Council Organisational Assessment

“This Council -

- (a) notes with concern the content of the Epping Forest District Council Organisational Assessment published by the Audit Commission on 9 December 2009, which gives the District Council a score of 2 out of 4 for every element of the assessment (“meets only minimum requirements, performs adequately”);
- (b) notes, in particular, the references to:
 - (i) a weak track record of improvement;
 - (ii) slow payment of benefits;
 - (iii) tensions between some senior officers and some councillors; and
 - (iv) a need to focus more on value for money and quality of service delivery;
- (c) recognises the hard work and commitment of staff and that the assessment records some areas of good performance including:
 - (i) providing services to Council tenants
 - (ii) working in partnership with other organisations to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour;
- (d) believes nevertheless that Epping Forest District residents deserve better than a Council which meets only minimum requirements; and
- (e) resolves:
 - (1) That as a matter of priority the Cabinet should work with officers to identify the actions required to address the areas of under-performance highlighted in the assessment and that these should be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for discussion;
 - (2) That actions to address the areas of under-performance should be included in the Key Priority Objectives for 2010/11;
 - (3) That the financial implications be considered as part of the current budget-making process; and
 - (4) That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee should keep under review the Council’s response to the assessment”.

Proposer: Councillor Jon Whitehouse

Secunder: Councillor Ann Haigh