

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY
PANEL
HELD ON MONDAY, 30 JANUARY 2006
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 1, CIVIC OFFICES, HIGH STREET, EPPING
AT 7.00 - 8.55 PM

Members Present:	J M Whitehouse (Chairman), Mrs D Collins, Mrs R Gadsby, R Goold and J Markham
Other members present:	Mrs P Smith
Apologies for Absence:	S Barnes (Deputy Leader) and K Faulkner
Officers Present	P Haywood (Joint Chief Executive), T Tidey (Head of Human Resources and Performance Management) and S G Hill (Senior Democratic Services Officer)
Also in attendance:	(none)

42. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

Noted that Councillor Markham was substituting for Councillor Faulkner.

43. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

44. DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2006-2010

The Panel made the following comments of the Draft Plan:

(1) GU2 – The Panel asked that the Portfolio Holder give consideration to setting a higher recycling target for the authority;

(2) HN1 – The Panel considered that the proposed target would not meet the objective. They noted that the Housing OS Panel were considering the potential of small development sites and considered that this objective should be revisited once the Panel had reported. Furthermore the Panel questioned whether the objective was achievable given the demand for affordable homes and the shortage of housing;

(3) HN4 – The Panel considered that the proposed limit of £200,000 on private sector grants would not address the objective. i.e. more resources were likely to be required. The Panel also enquired whether the production of an Empty Homes Strategy was on target for 1/9/6

(4) SC1 – The Panel thought that a local Performance Indicator might be an appropriate way to measure this action;

(5) SC2 – The Panel thought that there was a need to have some measure of performance for the Community Policing Team although this would not necessarily be reflected in the Council Plan itself;

(6) SC3 - The Panel thought that there was a need to have some measure of performance for the effectiveness of ASBOs although this might form a local Performance Indicator rather than be included in the Plan itself;

(7) EP6 – The Panel felt that objective should be broader to encompass links with the wider business community not just the TCP's and that a different type of Business Forum might be needed;

(8) IP3 – The Panel noted the increase in resources in Planning and that the target would be to attain and maintain top quartile performance; and

(9) IP5 – Agreed that the reference to the specific list of KPI's should be replaced with 'as identified by members each year'.

The Panel also considered that the Council's Community Leadership role should be included within the plan.

The Panel agreed proposed consultation arrangements but asked that in addition to discussion at Local Council's Liaison Committee, the plan be sent to each Parish/Town Council individually seeking their comments. The Panel noted that it was the officers' intention to seek advice from the Race Equality Council on groups to be approached during the consultation period. Also agreed that consultation on the plan should also be undertaken via the Council's Website.

45. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY

The Panel received proposals for a Policy and Strategy for Consultation and Engagement. Noted that each year the Cabinet would receive proposals under the Policy and that Overview and Scrutiny would then have a role in overseeing the programme.

The Policy was supported and the Panel asked that the Town Centre Partnerships be specifically listed under section 3 (consultees).

RECOMMENDED to Cabinet:

That subject to the amendment above, the policy be adopted.

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

- (i) Council Plan 2006-2010; and
- (ii) Consultation and Engagement Policy and Strategy.

47. FUTURE MEETINGS

Next meeting 7 February 2006 at 7.00 p.m.