

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Community Services held at County Hall, Lewes, on 12 March 2008.

PRESENT	-	Councillor Taylor (Chairman) Councillors Howson (Vice-Chairman), Martin, Scott, and Wilson
Chief Officers	-	Andrew Ogden, Director of Law and Personnel Becky Shaw, Director of Policy and Communications
Legal Adviser	-	Jonathan Ruddock-West, Assistant Director of Law
Scrutiny Lead Officer	-	Claire Lee
ALSO PRESENT	-	Councillor B Tidy, Lead Cabinet Member for Community Services Phil Packham, Assistant Director, Resources Shirley Hamilton, Assistant Director, ICT Elizabeth Hughes, County Archivist Paul Rideout, Voluntary and Community Services Co-ordinator Annie Petch, Democratic Services Officer

31. REPORTS

31.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are contained in the minute book.

32. MINUTES

32.1 RESOLVED – to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2007.

33. APOLOGIES

33.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Skilton, Councillor Whetstone, Mr T Campbell, Miss J Gilliver, Mr S Gregory and Mrs S Maynard.

34. RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES – FEEDBACK TO SCRUTINY

34.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Personnel, which provided feedback on the outcomes of scrutiny input into the Reconciling Policy and Resources (RPR) process in 2007/08.

34.2 The Director of Law and Personnel explained that the report was presented to every scrutiny committee and he welcomed feedback on the process as a whole and whether receiving details of recommendations that other scrutiny committees had made was helpful.

34.3 The Director of Law and Personnel confirmed that the Animal Welfare Grant had not been subsumed into the Revenue Support Grant as funds have been made available. However, the County Council will have to bid again to access the funds.

34.4 RESOLVED to advise that there are no specific improvements recommended for the process next year.

35. HISTORICAL RESOURCE CENTRE: THE KEEP

35.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Law and Personnel which provided an update on progress being made to achieve a new Historical Resource Centre (The Keep) for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

35.2 The Director of Law and Personnel confirmed that the Project Board was working well and making good progress. The County Archivist advised that the University of Sussex was seriously interested in the project and that discussions were currently taking place about whether they would make a capital or revenue contribution to the project.

35.3 The Committee discussed storage capacity of the new building; the allowance for inflation over the period of the build; the timescale for moving out of the current archive building in Newhaven; and the fact that there is a feasibility study currently being undertaken on the potential Collection Centre.

35.4 RESOLVED to (1) thank Elizabeth Hughes, County Archivist, for her excellent work in the records and archive service and towards the project for The Keep;

(2) request an update report with site plans to the meeting in September 2008; and

(3) arrange a site visit to Woollards Field in September 2008.

36. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR (FINAL REPORT)

36.1 The Committee considered a report by the Chairman of the Review Board which presented the outcomes of the review and proposed recommendations.

36.2 The Chairman of the Review Board thanked the wide range of voluntary organisations, Members and officers who had participated in the review.

36.3 The Director of Policy and Communications responded that the report was helpful and evidence-based and made some clear recommendations. She indicated that her team would co-ordinate a departmental response to the review.

36.4 RESOLVED – to recommend the report to Cabinet for comment and County Council for approval.

37. QUARTER THREE (Q3) MONITORING REPORT AGAINST THE 2007/08 COUNCIL PLAN

37.1 The Committee considered a report by the Director of Policy and Communications which provided an update on performance against the Council Plan for the 3rd quarter of 2007/08.

37.2 The Committee discussed the performance indicators relating to kiosks and help points and expressed concern at the kiosks breaking down due to the software installed.

37.3 RESOLVED – to (1) note the successes and achievements made within Community Services; and

(2) request an update report, with usage figures, on Kiosks and Community Help Points to the meeting in November 2008.

38. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2008 WORK PROGRAMME

39.1 The Committee considered a report by Director of Law and Personnel setting out the Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the forthcoming year.

39.2 The Committee requested that it item on the Alcohol Strategy noted as a future work item be put on the agenda in September 2008.

39.3 RESOLVED to update the work programme

40. FORWARD PLAN

40.1 The Committee noted the forward plan for the period 1 March 2008 to 31 July 2008.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.50am