

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE DELIVERY) held in the Council Chamber, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN on Tuesday, 2nd October 2007.

PRESENT: Councillor S J Criswell – Chairman.

Councillors Mrs M Banerjee, Mrs K E Cooper, J E Garner, D A Giles, Mrs C A Godley, Mrs P A Jordan and J S Watt.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J D Ablewhite, E R Butler, K J Churchill, D Harty, P G Mitchell, J M Sadler and P K Ursell.

28. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

30. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 - FORWARD PLAN

The Panel considered the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which had been prepared by the Leader for the period 1st October 2007 – 31st January 2008. Members requested that an item on Migrant Workers in Huntingdonshire was submitted to a future meeting.

It was reported items on the Consultation and Engagement Strategy and on the Local Economy Strategy would be submitted to the next meeting.

31. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Policy and Strategic Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on the Council's performance against "Growing Success" – the Council's Corporate Plan. Members were reminded that the data presented related to the Council's priorities that fell within their remit and that the Council continued to monitor its performance against all of its aims and objectives and details were available if required.

With regard to the Council's homelessness objectives, attention was drawn to the risks that might hinder the provision of affordable housing. Members requested that future reports include the number and proportion of housing completions on qualifying sites that were affordable.

RESOLVED

that the contents of the report be noted.

32. MARKET UPDATE 2006/07

Pursuant to Minute No. 06/52 (b), the Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Operations (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), which contained updated information on the District's markets.

Subject to Councillor J D Ablewhite identifying matters to pursue and to the circulation to Members of information on the markets budget and on the Ramsey market, it was decided not to undertake any further study work in this area.

33. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT

The Panel gave consideration to a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was attached an Internal Audit Report on Overview and Scrutiny. Attention was drawn to the finding that overall the Overview and Scrutiny function at the Council was performing well and suggested recommendations for improvements. Having approved amendments to the study template which were intended to address the identified audit actions, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that audit report be noted; and
- (b) that the actions agreed with Deloitte and Touche Public Sector to address the residual risks as summarised in the report now submitted be endorsed.

34. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (SERVICE DELIVERY) - PROGRESS

The Panel received and noted a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which contained details of actions taken in response to recent discussions and decisions and reviewing the programme of studies.

With regard to the study on disability access, Members suggested that additional information might usefully be obtained from Directions Plus and the Papworth Trust.

35. SCRUTINY

In scrutinising the 76th edition of the Digest of Decisions taken by the Cabinet and other Panels, etc. Councillor J E Garner referred to the benefit derived by the Council from the Great Fen Project.

Chairman