

26 July 2007

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WAS HELD ON 26 JULY 2007**

Councillors Carr (P), Davis (P), Dickson (P), Farr (P), Foster (P), Foster-Reed, Jacobs (P), Kimber (P), Philpott (P), Mrs Salter (P), Train (P) and Ward (P).

It was reported that Councillor Ms Ballard had been nominated to replace Councillor Foster-Reed for this meeting.

15. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Foster-Reed.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 June 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

18. DISPARITY IN SHORT-STAY CAR PARKING CHARGES AT LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT IN COMPARISON WITH THE REST OF THE BOROUGH

Consideration was given to a briefing note of the Borough Solicitor on the above matter which provided the Committee with financial information requested at its meeting on 7 June 2007. Details of petitions received from members of the public and business representatives requesting changes to the structure of the Lee-on-the-Solent short-stay car parking charges were also reported to the Committee.

Councillor Smith attended the meeting by invitation in order to take part in the discussion, and he responded to a number of Members' questions relating to car parking charges. Councillor Smith was thanked for his contribution and his attendance at the meeting.

Members debated the issues surrounding short-stay car parking charges at Lee-on-the-Solent compared to those in the rest of the Borough and, as they felt that further information and views were required, decided that an extraordinary meeting of the Committee should be arranged to look further into the subject. Members decided that invitations to attend the meeting should be extended to the Lee Traders Association, Lee Residents Association, Councillor Cully, a Lee Councillor who was not a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Mrs Driver, who had been involved with organising the petitions. It was felt that these organisations and individuals would be able to provide information and views to enable the Committee to better conduct the requested scrutiny.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) an extraordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be arranged to scrutinise the disparity in short stay car parking charges at Lee-on-the-Solent compared to the rest of the Borough; and
- b) the following be invited to the extraordinary meeting:
 - A representative of the Lee Traders Association
 - A representative of the Lee Residents Association
 - Councillor Cully
 - Mrs Driver
 - A Lee Councillor who is not a Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19. BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager which considered performance information relating to Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) for the year 2006/07.

Members were advised that the performance information was continually monitored with quarterly in-house reviews being carried out following which any necessary actions were taken

Members noted that the Council was in the top three of the Hampshire Councils in dealing with planning matters and that 58% of indicators showed an upward trend with 15% remaining stable. Officers were congratulated on their performance.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Development Services Manager be noted

20. REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

A request was made by Councillor Train for the travel token service to be scrutinised. The Committee supported this request and decided that a 1:1:1 Working Group be established to scrutinise this area. The nominations for the Working Group were as follows:

- Labour: Councillor Train
- Liberal Democrat: Councillor Mrs Salter
- Conservative: Councillor Ward

RESOLVED: That:

- a) approval be given to the travel token service being scrutinised; and
- b) a 1:1:1 Working Group, comprising the above mentioned nominees, be established to scrutinise the travel token service.

21. REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF SCRUTINIES UNDERTAKEN

Southern Water

Councillor Davis updated the Committee on the progress made by the Working Group, which had met once and would be liaising with Southern Water and Hampshire County Council in August 2007.

There appeared to be little communication between the various organisations involved and there was concern for currently privately owned sewers which were due for adoption in 2010. However, this adoption would depend upon the sewers being in an acceptable condition. Members were advised that, with regard to private sewers, there was legislation in place which enabled enforcement by the Council's Environmental Health Services. Environmental Health Services could also assist the Working Group with information relating to private sewers.

It was anticipated that the Working Group would be able to submit a final report to Committee within the timescale (May 2008) and that by then the various organisations involved would be working together.

Councillor Davis advised in conclusion that he would shortly be meeting with the Southern Water officer responsible for sewer adoption.

Councillor Davis's report was noted and Members expressed their satisfaction at the progress made by the Working Group.

Waterfront Zoning Working Group

Consideration was given to the notes of the Waterfront Zoning Working Group meeting held on 9 July 2007 together with the Group's current Action Plan.

Members were advised that the Working Group was looking at Stokes Bay Waterfront being zoned in a similar way to that at Lee-on-the-Solent.

The progress made by the Working Group was noted.

Introduction of 20 mph Speed Restrictions in Gosport

Consideration was given to a briefing note of the Borough Solicitor on the above matter. This advised Members that a representative from Hampshire County Council had indicated that he would be available to attend the meeting of the Committee on 27 September 2007 should it wish to scrutinise this subject on that date.

Members subsequently agreed to scrutinise the introduction of 20 mph speed restrictions in Gosport at its September meeting and that a representative from Hampshire County Council, together with representatives from the Police, Portsmouth City Council and the Road Safety Council, be invited to attend.

Hampshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Key Issues for Work Programme

Members were presented with a copy of a letter sent to Councillor Dr Ellis, Chairman of the Hampshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the above matter.

Councillor Dr Ellis had written requesting suggestions from the Borough Council on key areas of work to be formally considered by his Committee in 2007/08. A 1:1:1 Working Group consisting of Councillors Allen, Train and Mrs Salter had been established to meet with the Environmental Services Manager and agree a response on the Committee's behalf. The Working Group had met on 23 April 2007 and an agreed response was sent to Councillor Dr Ellis on the same day.

The Committee noted the response.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) Councillor Davis's report on the Southern Water Working Group be noted;
- b) the progress made by the Waterfront Zoning Working Group be noted;
- c)
 - (i) the introduction of 20 mph speed restrictions in Gosport be scrutinised on 27 September 2007;
 - (ii) representatives from Hampshire County Council, the Police, Portsmouth City Council and the Road Safety Council be invited to attend the meeting; and
- d) the response to Councillor Dr Ellis on behalf of the Committee be noted.

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22. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

A copy of the current work programme for the Committee was circulated to Members. The programme contained brief details of areas which were currently being or were due to be scrutinised together with dates for appropriate reports to be made to Committee.

RESOLVED: That the work programme and the report dates contained therein be accepted.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business to discuss.

The meeting ended at 8.03 p.m.

CHAIRMAN