

Item 5a

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday, 12
September 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillor J.E. Higgin (Chairman) and

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, T.F. Forrest, D.M. Hancock, G.M.R. Howe,
J.P. Moran, K. Thompson, T. Ward and J. Wayman J.P

Tenant Representatives

Mrs. M. Thomson

In

Attendance: Councillors Mrs. B.A. Clare, V. Crosby, Mrs. A.M. Fleming, A. Gray,
B. Hall, B. Meek, G. Morgan, A. Smith and Mrs. I. Jackson Smith

Apologies: Councillors J. Burton, Ms. M. Predki and J. Robinson J.P

OSC(2).5/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members had no interests to declare.

OSC(2).6/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th June, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Specific reference was made to the request to consider the implementation of tracking devices to all Council vehicles.

The Chairman of the Committee read out a statement in response to the evaluation of the installation of Tracking Systems. It was explained that there was too significant a fleet covering all directorates, therefore it would be inappropriate for one Directorate to evaluate and consider the introduction of such a system. Consideration could only be taken if the Council decided corporately to undertake a review of the fleet management, which at this present time was not possible.

OSC(2).7/06 HOUSING DEPARTMENT SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

M. Smith, Business Development Manager, Housing Services attended the meeting to give a presentation on Housing Department's Service Improvement Plan, outlining actions that had been achieved and would be undertaken for the duration of the plan. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was pointed out that the Housing Departments Service Improvement Plan (SIP) was developed from a gap analysis of the Audit Commission's Key Line of Enquiries (KLOE) to drive forward quality services and to

provide focus and structure to service improvements for a period of 4 years.

Members were informed that each KLOE represented sets of questions, which contained 3 overarching themes with the rest concentrating on the specific service area. At the time the SIP was produced 8 landlord specific KLOE's were included, which were then reviewed under further development of the SIP. The review process included consultation with customers, staff and elected members, refinement of the number of actions that had previously been included and identified a number of potential service improvements.

The development of the Strategic SIP and the activities to be completed, which were structured around seven key themes were also outlined, including the time frame for completion of the activities.

Detailed discussion was held regarding the Decent Homes Standards and the targets the Council was aspiring to meet.

Agreed: That Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 receive the report.

OSC(2).8/06 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - ACTUAL OUTTURN 2005/2006

Consideration was given to Performance Indicators actual outturn 2005/2006 (for copy see file of Minutes) relating to the Community Health, Leisure and Culture, Housing and Safer Communities portfolios.

It was explained that the targets had been set by Strategic Working Groups and the report identified how outcomes had performed against those targets.

The comments of the responsible officer for particular targets were identified in the report and gave explanations on individual results.

Discussion was held regarding the limited number of Performance Indicators that had set targets. It was pointed out that almost half of the Performance Indicators were below the national average. G. Darby pointed out that the overall trend was improving, however, those Performance Indicators missing their targets would be identified with any necessary improvements being made.

It was also pointed out that there were too few Performance Indicators targeting value for money and that further local Performance Indicators should be developed to target that.

Agreed: That the information be noted.

OSC(2).9/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT - STREET SAFE INITIATIVE REVIEW GROUP

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee detailing Cabinet's response and Action Plan following its consideration and recommendations arising from work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Street Safe Review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Committee was reminded that the review had originally been undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3, however due to the portfolio changes Street Safe was now the responsibility of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2.

Agreed:

1. That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations of the review together with the implementation timetable outlined.

2. That progress on the action plan be reviewed in three months.

OSC(2).10/06 WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Chairman of the Committee setting out the Committee's Work Programme for consideration and review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Committee was updated on the progress of each of the Review Groups Provision of Affordable Housing and Leisure Centre Concessionary Fares.

AGREED : That the Committee's Work Programme be approved.

OSC(2).11/06 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings held on 3rd April and 5th June, 206 were considered and noted. (For copies see file of Minutes).

OSC(2).12/06 ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT CCTV Camera

Concerns were raised regarding the operation of CCTV equipment across the Borough. Members felt that they were not cost-effective and requested that an officer with responsibility and the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities be invited to the next meeting.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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