

Item 9

SEDGEFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2

Conference Room 1,
Council Offices,
Spennymoor

Tuesday,
24 October 2006

Time: 10.00 a.m.

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

Councillors W.M. Blenkinsopp, T.F. Forrest, D.M. Hancock, J.P. Moran,
J. Robinson J.P, T. Ward and J. Wayman J.P

Tenant Representatives

Mrs. M. Thomson

Invited to attend: Councillor M. Iveson and W. Waters

In

Attendance: Councillors A. Gray, J.G. Huntington, J.M. Khan and G. Morgan

Apologies: Councillors J. Burton, G.M.R. Howe, Ms. M. Predki and K. Thompson

OSC(2).13/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members had no interests to declare.

OSC(2).14/06 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September, 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OSC(2).15/06 CCTV ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH

A. Aitkin, Business Manager, attended the meeting to give a presentation on the provisions of CCTV equipment across the Borough. (For copy see file of Minutes). D. Scarr, Head of Community Services and Councillor M. Iveson portfolio holder for Safer Communities were also present to answer any questions.

Members were reminded that Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 had undertaken a Street Safe Review beginning 17th September, 2004 concluding on 6th April, 2005.

The presentation detailed the scope and aims, findings and recommendations produced by the Review Group. It included the current CCTV platforms and cameras, pricing and charging structure and any investment that had been made for the future. It also considered the legislation and licensing laws that had to be followed, performance indicators that needed to be met and any developments to the service that were anticipated to be made in the future.

Detailed discussion was held regarding the type of cameras used and whether the Council worked in partnership to identify sites for the cameras. Members were informed that prior to cameras installation the Council worked with the Police, Town and Parish Councils and Neighbourhood Wardens to identify the best location.

With regard to costs the portfolio holder pointed out that alternatives were being considered to ensure that it was kept down and try and move away from BT, which was found to be most expensive.

Concerns were also raised regarding communication and the process followed when the system failed. D. Scarr explained that in the past when the system had failed, over a period of time, Town and Parish Councils had been refunded. A. Aitkin also distributed examples of the CCTV performance report that he produced for each area and was sent to all Town and Parish Councils to keep everyone informed. It was requested that all Borough Councillors also received the report.

Questions were finally raised regarding the revenue costs for the system and which Committee had considered and agreed the report. J. Slee, Scrutiny Support Officer agreed to look into the matter and feed back at the next meeting.

AGREED : That the presentation be received.

OSC(2).16/06 PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive in relation to the preparation of the Annual Overview and Scrutiny report. (For copy see file of Minutes).

The Committee reviewed the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 throughout 2005/06 considered a suggested Action Plan for the Overview and Scrutiny function and review methods in order to improve the Overview and Scrutiny function.

The achievements that the Committee had progressed were also outlined in the report.

AGREED :

- 1. That the work undertaken during 2005/06 be noted.*
- 2. That the proposed Action Plan for 2006/07 be supported.*

OSC(2).17/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT - REVIEW OF ARTS DEVELOPMENT

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 Arts Development Review. (For copy see file of Minutes).

AGREED : That the response of Cabinet to the recommendations of the Review together with the implementation timetable outlined be noted.

OSC(2).18/06 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW GROUP REPORT - REVIEW OF TOURISM WITHIN THE BOROUGH

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

AGREED : That Cabinet's response to the recommendation of the Review of Tourism within Sedgfield Borough together with implementation timetable outlined be noted.

OSC(2).19/06 GAMBLING ACT 2005 - DRAFT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services detailing the Draft Statement of Principles. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were reminded that the Gambling Act 2005 had received Royal Assent on 7th April, 2005 and was due to be fully implemented on 1st September, 2007. Prior to its full implementation, it was explained that the Statement of Principles had to be put to public consultation before its consideration by Full Council no later than 3rd January 2007.

It was explained that under the new legislation the Gambling Commission and Local Authorities would share responsibilities for all matters regulated previously by the Magistrates Court. Responsibilities held by each authority were outlined in the attached report.

AGREED : That following completion of the statutory consultation process a further report including any revisions of the Statement of Principles be submitted to Licensing Committee 2 for their consideration and that the Statement of Principles then be submitted to Cabinet.

OSC(2).20/06 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings held on 3rd July, 2006 and 5th September, 2006 were considered and noted. (For copy see file of Minutes).

OSC(2).21/06 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 Pricing Scheme.

The Committee requested that an update on Locomotion including performance figures, budget and visitor information be presented at the next meeting. It was also suggested that the meeting be held at Locomotion and transport be provided to and from the venue.

- AGREED :**
1. *That the Committees Work Programme be approved with the inclusion of an update on the Locomotion.*
 2. *That the next meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 be held at Locomotion.*

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Any person wishing to exercise the right of inspection, etc., in relation to these Minutes and associated papers should contact Miss S. Billingham, Tel 01388 816166 Ext 4240, sbillingham@sedgefield.gov.uk