

# SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date:** 24 February 2010

**Venue:** East Northamptonshire House, Cedar Drive, Thrapston

**Time:** 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors: - Phil Stearn (Chairman)  
Glenvil Greenwood-Smith (Vice-Chairman)

David Bateman  
Richard Gell  
Marian Hollomon  
Barbara Jenney  
Brian Northall

Ron Pinnock  
Duncan Reid  
Pam Whiting  
Clive Wood

## **PART A ITEMS**

### **374. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 7 December 2009 and 5 January 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **375. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Peter Bedford, Tony Boto, Sue Homer and Gill Mercer sent apologies.

### **376. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest under Section 50 of the Local Government Act 2000.

### **377. UPDATE ON COUNTY-WIDE SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee was updated on the progress that had been made to establish a county-wide scrutiny arrangement. It was reported that, following lengthy discussions with all the proposed membership of the Board, the draft terms of reference had been revised and improved. These revised terms of reference had been endorsed by the Public Service Board. Members were reassured that the sentiment of the Terms of Reference had not changed and that most of the additions and amendments were procedural details.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the revised Terms of Reference of the Northamptonshire Overview and Scrutiny Board be approved.

### **378. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Policy and Community Development facilitated a workshop to aid the Committee in developing its future work programme. The Members reviewed the aims of the

Corporate Plan, which were grouped into eleven potential review areas, and prioritised them for review, having taken into account current activity. The agreed work programme is attached at Appendix 1 and forms part of this minute.

Members discussed how to move forward with the programme in preparation for the new municipal year. It was agreed that Councillors Marian Hollomon, Ron Pinnock, Barbara Jenney and Richard Gell would scope review B and feed their suggestions into the next meeting of the Committee. The group were to consider outcomes, resource implications, and training needs as part of the scoping exercise.

## **PART B ITEMS**

### **379. ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

Members considered a draft of the Committee's Annual Report to the Council. A revised page on the work of the Performance Panel was tabled at the meeting and a correction to the section on county-wide scrutiny arrangements agreed.

#### **R.16 RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the 2009 Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix 2 to these minutes at pages 667 to 676 be approved by the Council for publication.

**Chairman**

## Scrutiny Committee Review Programme from May 2010

Year		Priorities	Scrutiny Review Programme Notes/Comments
2010-11	A	Enhanced customer experience	Head of Customer Services brought MOSAIC data to Scrutiny – Could incorporate this scrutiny review around services and mystery shopping. What are the different experiences for the MOSAIC groups. New Corporate Branding in place last year. Do people recognize our services/information. New website goes live in April. What do customers feel has changed since Corporate Plan? Impact of change in payment options?
		Improved access to information and services	
		Customer focus	
		Customer and community insight	
		Improved business processes	
		Strong corporate brand	
		Improved website and online transactions	
	B	Strong communities	Area Based Initiatives (ABI's) 1 complete 2 underway – different priorities/sections of community affected since recession – still appropriate? Market town improvements; Transition Towns Deprivation indices. Impact of economy and recession.
		Reduced deprivation	
		Community leadership	
Improved market towns			
C	Strengthened strategic partnerships	Partnership protocol in place. Relationships with identified key partners. Understanding the local vol. sector.	
	Effective third sector		
D	Effective business continuity	Monitored by Audit and Risk Committee	
2011-12	A	Reduced crime	Opportunity to look at crime figures and perceptions of crime. Lack of awareness; high profile on Place Survey; education opportunities; need for accurate and useful statistics.
		Reduced anti-social behaviour	
		Improved road safety	
	B	Increased participation in play, sport, leisure and culture	Manor Park project in construction tendering process – CCP Management agreement in place until 2013. Rockingham Forest Trust, Stanwick Lakes, Greenway
Good public health			
Future	A	Clean streets	Waste Management WP. – Contract review so not appropriate for Scrutiny review at this time; 18 months from award of contract would be good time.
		Effective management of waste	
	B	Meeting housing needs	Growth Agenda - No LDF to test against. Covered by Planning Policy Committee and Area Working Parties that report into it.
		High quality built environment	
	C	Employer of choice	Staff terms and conditions currently under review. Members behaviour framework. Restructure in progress.
		Continuous development	
		Appropriate behaviours	
	D	Good value for money	Budget Review Group undertaking this role
Good use of resources			

	E	Rushden Regeneration	Manor Park project in construction tendering process. Consultation process ongoing re Rushden regeneration and masterplan.
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