

Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Thursday, 14 September 2006

Present: Councillor Alan Cullens (Chair) and Councillors Doreen Dickinson, Daniel Gee, Keith Iddon, Roy Lees, Miss Margaret Iddon, Adrian Lowe, Marion Lowe, Michael Muncaster, Rosemary Russell, Shaun Smith and Edward Smith

06.ECS.28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Peter Baker, Ken Ball, Alan Cain, Michael Davies and Anthony Gee.

06.ECS.29 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No Members declared any interests in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

06.ECS.30 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 20 July 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

06.ECS.31 NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING - INQUIRY

The Panel discussed the Neighbourhood Working Inquiry and considered a schedule of services to appoint a consultant produced by the Director of Streetscene, Neighbourhoods and Environment and the Inquiry scoping document.

In particular the Panel discussed the objectives for the Inquiry set out in paragraph 6 of the schedule. Members queried several points and noted that Neighbourhood working was an extremely large topic and that there was a lot of research information available.

The Director of Policy and Performance explained that she had attended a conference earlier that day where Phil Wollas, Minister for Local Government, had been expected to give an update on the White Paper due out in the next few months. In fact, a civil servant gave an update, as Phil Wollas was not able to attend. It would appear that devolved budgets may feature in the white paper and that there might be incentives for Local Authorities on this.

It was AGREED that the objectives for the Scrutiny Inquiry on Neighbourhood Working be as follows:

1. Improving service delivery of the Council and its partners,
2. Localising consultation and improving satisfaction in neighbourhoods **deleting** “*and delivering devolved budgets and commissioning of services*”,
3. Acting jointly, with partners, to reduce pockets of deprivation and social exclusion
4. Promoting community development and cohesion
5. Maximising community involvement in neighbourhood management from active citizens, **adding** *including young people*, voluntary and private organizations and **deleting** *6. Promoting involvement in local governance arrangements especially by young people.*

06.ECS.32 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2006/07

The Panel received the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for the 2006/07 Municipal Year and discussed the items relating to the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme be noted.

Chair