

# Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Tuesday, 11 March 2008**

**Present:** Councillor Geoffrey Russell (Chair) and Councillors Terry Brown, Henry Gaunce, Mike Devaney, Mrs Doreen Dickinson, Daniel Gee, Keith Iddon, Hasina Khan, June Molyneaux, Mick Muncaster and Mrs Stella Walsh

## **08.CCS.08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mick Davies, David Dickinson, Pat Haughton, Kevin Joyce, Thomas McGowan, Joyce Snape and Councillor Alan Cullens (Executive Member for Resources).

## **08.CCS.09 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS**

No members declared an interest in matters under consideration on the agenda.

## **08.CCS.10 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No members of the public requested to ask questions on items on the agenda.

## **08.CCS.11 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 22 January 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

## **08.CCS.12 SCRUTINY INQUIRIES - EFFICIENCY GAINS AND ABSENCE MANAGEMENT**

The Chair welcomed the Panel's final reports on its inquiries into Absence Management and Efficiency Gains asked the Chair of each sub-group to introduce their respective reports.

### Absence Management

Councillor Mike Devaney outlined the objectives and desired outcomes of the inquiry. Members considered the report and its recommendations and noted that at the third quarter the average sickness absence of the authorities employees' equated to 7.11 days, against an annual target of 9.22 days. The members commended this as an excellent achievement.

Councillor Devaney thanked the Members and officers for their contributions to the inquiry and commented on how positive the piece of work had been.

### Efficiency Gains

Councillor Stella Walsh explained that the sub-group had heard and evaluated a great deal of documentary evidence relating to the efficiency agenda. The sub-group had undertaken interviews with the directors and the external auditor whose responses had been compiled into a schedule enclosed with the report.

Members discussed the report and the recommendations made, noting specifically how the council has been recognised for its excellent work in its use of resources and value for money by the Audit Commission.

**RESOLVED – That the final reports of the Efficiency Gains sub-group and Absence Management sub-group be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 25 March.**

#### **08.CCS.13 BUSINESS PLAN MONITORING STATEMENTS - THIRD QUARTER**

Members considered the Business Plan Monitoring Statements from Customer, Democratic and Legal Services, Human Resources, Financial Services and Information and Communication Technology.

Members queried several points within the reports with the Directors who were in attendance at the meeting.

**RESOLVED – That the report be noted.**

#### **08.CCS.14 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

Members considered the Overview and Scrutiny Work Program.

**RESOLVED – That the work program be noted.**

Chair