

# Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Efficiency Gains Sub-Group

**Tuesday, 6 November 2007**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Stella Walsh (Chair) and Councillors Henry Counce, Mike Devaney, David Dickinson, Kevin Joyce and Geoffrey Russell

**Also in attendance:** James Douglas (Business Improvement Manager), Sarah Dobson (Performance Advisor - Corporate and Customer) and Ruth Hawes (Assistant Democratic Services Officer)

## **16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Michael Davies, Keith Iddon, Thomas McGowan and Mick Muncaster.

## **17. DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest by Members relating to the items on the agenda.

## **18. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No members of the public requested to speak at the meeting.

## **19. MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate and Customer Overview and Scrutiny Panel - Efficiency Gains Sub-Group held on 26 September 2007 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **20. ACTION PLAN FOR THE INQUIRY**

The Sub-Group considered the action plan drafted by officers detailing how each of the Inquiry objectives would be considered.

The action plan was agreed.

## **21. CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE**

Members considered the Value for Money Self Assessment report presented to Executive Cabinet in October 2007. It was noted that the transfer of services into the Contact Centre was not yet complete with Neighbourhoods Directorate due to transfer in the first quarter of 2008.

The Audit Commission would be holding a site visit to the Council on 23 November. Officers would update the Sub-Group at the next meeting.

Officers explained that work had been undertaken to compare the statistics for 2005/06 with the Audit Commission nearest neighbours and the two District Councils who had achieved 4 in the Use of Resources assessment. It was AGREED that the information was thought provoking and officers undertook to contact these authorities for further information.

The comparative information for 2006/2007 would be available in the next few weeks and providing this is the case a report will be presented to the Sub-Group at future meeting.

Members requested that a report be presented to the next meeting outlining the performance indicator information for each Directorate to enable any areas where performance has been affected by efficiency gains.

The Sub-Group noted the procedure for the preparation of Efficiency Statements and considered the report relating to the outsourcing of Property Services presented to the Executive Cabinet.

Officers explained that there would be a new performance reporting framework implemented in the next few months and undertook to produce a briefing note for a future meeting.

## **22. FEEDBACK FROM IDENTIFIED WITNESSES**

The Sub-Group considered questions to be asked during the feedback session with the Assistant Chief Executive (Business Transformation) at the next meeting.

It was AGREED that the questions be emailed to the Members of the Sub-Group for any further comments by 16 November.

Members discussed having a feedback session with all Directors, before Christmas if possible, and AGREED that an item be placed on the next agenda to consider questions.

## **23. INQUIRY DOCUMENTATION**

The Sub-Group considered the Inquiry documentation and AGREED the additions to the Information and Witness checklists.

## **24. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Wed 12 Dec at 6.30
- Wed 30 Jan at 6.30
- Wed 27 Feb at 6.30

Chair