

Monday 12 April 2010
at 6.00pm



Scrutiny Committee

MEMBERSHIP:-

Councillor MARSDEN (Chairman) Councillor Stanley (Deputy Chairman) Councillors BELSEY, Mrs HEAPS, PURCHESE, THOMPSON and Miss WOODALL.

An apology for absence was reported from Councillor Purchase.

22 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2010 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

23 Declarations of Interest.

None were received.

24 Follow up of Airbourne Review and Recommendations.

The committee considered the report of Councillors Graham Marsden and Neil Stanley advising Members on the actions taken against the recommendations made in the review into the decision to charge for admission to Airbourne.

Members were advised that a follow up review had been undertaken to evaluate the actions taken against the recommendations which were made in the original review report. The Events Development Manager and the Tourism Development (& Communications) Manager were interviewed about the recommendations that were specific to Events. It was noted that as it was decided not to charge for Airbourne 2009 some of the recommendations were not valid as they related to circumstances that would not occur unless charging continued. Members also noted that some of the recommendations were generic to the Council and of a nature that could not be followed up to gain assurance that the recommendations were being implemented.

Interviews were held with Annie Wills, Tourism Development and Communications Manager, and Mike Marchant, Events Development Manager to discuss the actions taken around the recommendations made in the Scrutiny report which directly affected the department. Attached at Appendix A to the report was the table of recommendations along with a description of the actions taken. However, brief overviews of some of the actions were as follows:

- 6. Business Plan – Evidence on file shows that a business plan was written for the 2009 Airbourne. Although there was currently no template for business plans this was an issue which had been identified by the Deputy Chief Executive who was currently investigating templates available.
- 7. Communications with stakeholders – Tourism Development and Communications Manager had been holding regular meetings with stakeholders throughout the year.
- 9. Relationship with emergency services – The Events Development Manager held regular meetings with the emergency services and stated that there were no issues this year.
- 11. Manning of the office – The Events Development Manager stated that all phones were diverted to the tennis centre during Airbourne so that enquiries regarding other events could be dealt with by Events staff.
- 13. Savings - The Events Development Manager stated that many areas of costs were reduced for the 2009 Airbourne.
- 15. Unachieved Income Targets – income targets had been as part of the budget setting process.
- 17. Sponsorship – The handling of sponsorship was reviewed and the income target for 2009 had been achieved.

Members noted that many of the issues covered in the original report were in connection with a charged event and as it was agreed not to charge for Airbourne in 2009 these issues became obsolete. Generic recommendations referring to more non specific areas could not be followed up, and the recommendations were addressed where they referred specifically to the Tourism Department. There appeared to be a lack of a Council wide standard for the layout of business plans and risk assessments although members were assured that work was underway to address this.

NOTED.

25 Corporate Plan Policy 5 – Environment Update.

The committee considered the report of the Senior Head of Development and Environment advising the Members on the current progress with the Corporate Plan Policy on the Environment.

The Senior Head of Development and Environment gave a brief overview of each of the areas contained within the report. The actions, activity and Indicators were also commented on within the report and Officers were in attendance to answer member's questions.

A number of questions were submitted by Councillor Woodall and addressed as follows:

- 1) Would Eastbourne Borough Council retain the Planning function for the South Downs National Park? A decision had not yet been made and would be the subject of a report to Cabinet in July 2010,
- 2) What if any is the Council's current usage of electric vehicles? Contractors are asked to consider changing to an alternative vehicle but costs might prove prohibitive, and many contractors already use the most

eco-friendly options where possible. The request would also be included in future contracts if appropriate.

3) Use of Lease Cars – transport supplements for public transport and cycle loans are offered to Officers where appropriate and the use of lease cars is discouraged.

4) Planning Policy relating to Eastbourne Park – amendments to previous proposals may arise following the production of the final Spatial Strategy.

5) Recycling of food waste – members were advised that this was currently being considered as a county wide option, the current site being Whitesmith, which, at the current time requires an amendment to their operations licence to increase the amount of tonnage that could be accepted. The collection of food waste would be given further consideration when the contract for waste collection was re-tendered in 2013.

Further questions arose regarding bring sites, green waste collection, encouraging people to recycle and the weekly collection of household waste. Queries were raised regarding the requirement to continue increasing the percentage of recycled waste and methods of achieving this.

In addition the committee discussed floods in relation to sewers and the surface water flowing into the sewerage system – Members were advised that the County had received funding to develop a countywide Surface Water Management Strategy. The Senior Head of Development and Environment was invited to sit on the Strategic Panel to help steer the plan on behalf of Eastbourne Borough Council.

NOTED.

The meeting finished at 7.20pm.

**Councillor Marsden
Chairman**