

Scrutiny Committee

MEMBERSHIP:-

Councillor BELSEY (Chairman) Councillors SHUTTLEWORTH (Deputy Chairman)
Councillors COLES, MURRAY, TAYLOR, UNGAR and WARNER.

5. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2012 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

6. Declarations of Interest.

None were received.

7. Eastbourne Community Safety Plan.

The committee considered the report of the Senior Head of Community asking members to review the current performance of the Eastbourne Community Safety Partnership under the updated Eastbourne Community Safety Plan. The report also sought to outline issues that may potentially impact future crime and anti social behaviour performance.

Members were advised that In 2005/2006 Eastbourne was subject to around 11,500 crimes. For the performance year 2010/2011 this had dropped to approximately 7,500 crimes. In the previous performance year 2011/2012 crimes had reduced a further 9.5% to 6,900 crimes

The report detailed the targets and performance of performance year 2011/2012 compared with the baseline performance year 2010/2011.

The committee noted that shoplifting clearly remained an issue and were advised that a sub-group of the CSP had been formed which included the Neighbourhood Policing Team and Business Crime Groups aimed at re-addressing the chronic problem and risk to performance.

The Eastbourne Crime Reduction Officer advised that elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for each Police area would take place on 15 November 2012. PCCs would be responsible for policing and crime performance and to appoint and hold Chief Constables to account. Selected Councillors both at a county and local level would form a Police and Crime Panel (PCP) which would have scrutiny powers over the PCC and in particular the "policing plan" and "budget". A shadow PCP was already in place to assist the smooth transition from Sussex Police Authority to the

PCC. It was anticipated PCCs would have a direct involvement in community safety.

The committee noted that the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) would have a direct involvement in determining budget allocation to local CSPs commencing in the 2013/2014 financial year. Eastbourne CSP was working with the East Sussex Community Safety Partnership to highlight the positive benefits for the PCC to retain investment in CSP activity.

Overall crime had substantially reduced since 2005/2006 performance year. Notable crime reductions had again been achieved in the performance year 2011/2012 and crime performance was again positive within measured criteria of the refreshed plan in the current performance year to date.

Members acknowledged that central Government cut-backs coupled with the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners from November 2012 may have an adverse impact on local CSP funding from next performance year 2013/2014. Further potential countywide changes as a result of a newly 'elected PCC' had been mitigated by a continued local focus, in addition to adding value in developing initiatives, including Neighbourhood Management.

The committee were keen to encourage PCC candidates to visit Eastbourne and witness the positive effects of Eastbourne's Crime Reduction Partnership. Members were advised that PCC candidates would be invited to attend an open day on 15 September 2012 aimed at raising the awareness of Eastbourne's needs. The committee recognised the need for continuous effort in reducing crime and the perception of anti social behaviour within Eastbourne.

NOTED.

8. Corporate Performance Outturns 2010/11.

Members considered the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer updating the Members of the Council's performance against Corporate Plan Priority actions, indicators and financial targets for 2012/2013.

Members considered Appendix 1 containing information regarding quarter 1 activities and outturns of the performance indicators listed within the Corporate Plan which had been broken down into the 4 theme chapters. A summary table at the beginning of each chapter's data showed the number of indicators on and off target.

Each project had been allocated a number of in-year actions and milestones to be completed in order to progress the project efficiently. Members were advised that some projects would be completed within the year whereas larger scale priorities would be delivered over a longer period. The summary action table at the beginning of each section showed the percentage of in-year actions/milestones completed so achieving 100% would not necessarily equate to final completion of the whole project. The specific milestones for

Quarter 1 were set out in the actions report in Appendix 1 and details of the milestones for the whole year were available on Covalent and could be supplied on request.

Members had requested further information relating to attendance targets for the Bandstand, and were advised that whilst current figures were below anticipated targets, a number of factors had affected performance. Actions had been undertaken to mitigate the effects of unforeseen repair and maintenance of the Bandstand and provisions to reduce the impact of future works had been anticipated.

Members noted the quarter 1 financial outturn for the year 2012/2013, the report further highlighted the general fund revenue account, housing revenue account and the capital programme.

The variance to date included a surplus of £86,800 from the Solarbourne project. Other variances (representing just 0.51% of the profiled budget) were being monitored over the next few months.

The contingency fund currently stood at £219,300 which was available to fund any future unforeseen one off areas of expenditure during the year.

The Housing Revenue Account performance was highlighted in paragraph 4.1 and Members were advised that the HRA was on target.

Members noted that the capital programme was detailed in appendix 4. Expenditure was low compared to the budget due to some major changes yet to commence.

The report further detailed activity in Treasury Management, the Council's Annual Investment Strategy and Investment Performance.

Members discussed the provision for repairs and maintenance to the Council's housing stock and were assured that a sustainable strategy had been developed, with all aspects costed appropriately. It was anticipated that current standards would be exceeded to include environmental improvements and new builds.

NOTED.

The meeting closed at 7.22p.m.

**Councillor Belsey
Chairman**