



## Scrutiny Committee

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held in **Warren Room, Lewes House, 32 High Street, Lewes** on **26 June 2008** at **10:00** .

### **Present:**

Councillors E E J Russell (Chair), R E Allen, M A Cutress, D M Gray, T M Hawthorne  
C R O'Keeffe

### **In Attendance:**

J Gavigan, Committee Officer

D Feintuck, Committee Officer/Scrutiny Secretary

*The meeting was preceded by a presentation by the Head of Audit and Performance and the Corporate Performance Officer entitled "Managing Risk and Performance at Lewes District Council". A copy of the notes is included in the Minutes Book.*

	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Minutes</b> The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence/Declaration of Substitute</b>	

## **Members**

Councillor Allen declared that he was substituting for Councillor C S Lambert. Apologies had been received from Councillors P A Howson, J V S Page and D O Rogers OBE.

### **3 Disclosure by councillors of personal interests in matters on the Agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the councillor regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct**

Councillors Cutress and Hawthorne declared personal, non-prejudicial interests in Item 6 below, Work Programme 2008/09 – Partnerships, as they were members of Rural Voices, Rural Choices. Councillor Russell declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the same item as she was a member of ReGen. Councillor O’Keefe declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the same item as she was a member of the Lewes Town Partnership.

### **4 Council and Cabinet Minutes**

The Committee noted Cabinet minute 228, Land for Future Cemeteries Review and Council minute 116, Role of Ward Councillors Review.

### **5 Chair of Council’s Annual Business Report**

The Committee considered Report No 109/08 which detailed:

- (a)** The Outgoing Chair’s Civic Programme, and
- (b)** The Civic Programme for the forthcoming year and budget provision.

Councillors noted that the event arranged by Lewes Town Council for September was in fact its annual allotment event and not a spin-off from the “Seedy Saturday” event. Councillors noted that the Chair’s appointments during 2007/2008 had been concentrated in Lewes with fewer events attended in the coastal towns or rural areas.

#### **Resolved**

**5.1** That the Scrutiny Secretary be requested to provide a breakdown of spending for the Chair of Council’s budget 2007/08; and

**5.2** The Chairman's Secretary be requested to write to the Chairs of all Town and Parish Councils within the District describing the Chair of Council's focus of Citizenship and Community for 2008/09 and pointing out that the Chair of Council would be particularly pleased to consider invitations to attend events in the coastal towns and in the rural areas.

**6**

**Work Programme 2008/09**

The Committee considered Report No 110/08 which detailed the Committee's completed work for 2007/08, ongoing matters, carry forward to the Work Programme 2008/09 and suggestions received for the Work Programme 2008/09, together with the fixed points in the Scrutiny Committee's Annual Cycle. The Committee noted that the Direction of Travel Statement would be considered in future years at the April rather than September meeting of the Committee.

Councillors noted Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10(b) whereby Scrutiny Panels were required to retain the political balance although any political group could give one of its places to an independent councillor.

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Resolved:

Scrutiny  
Secretary

**6.1** That the Scrutiny Secretary be requested to thank those who had submitted suggestions for the Work Programme 2008/09 and to inform them of the Committee's decisions.

With regard to the carry forward and the suggestions, the Committee commented as follows:

Clean and Green Team Operations

A review would be supported by the Corporate Management Team and was expected to commence in October 2008.

Resolved:

**6.2** That councillors be requested to indicate to the Scrutiny Secretary their interest in serving on a Panel to conduct the Clean and Green Team Operations review. Scrutiny Secretary

Parks and Open Spaces

Resolved:

**6.3** That Parks and Open Spaces be reconsidered as a possible subject for review following the conclusion of the Clean and Green Team Operations review.

Ward Councillors Role

Councillors were mindful of the preliminary review on this subject which had been agreed by Council in May 2008.

Resolved:

**6.4** That the Scrutiny Secretary be requested to consult Councillor MacCleary, Chair of the May 2008 Review, and subsequently to circulate to the Committee a draft remit for a continuing review to run from September 2008 until December 2008; and Scrutiny Secretary

**6.5** That councillors be requested to indicate to the Scrutiny Secretary their interest in serving on a Panel to conduct the Ward Councillors Role review.

## Surveillance Camera Usage

### Resolved:

**6.6** That the Committee would consider the Cabinet Report on Surveillance Camera Usage in due course and decide if further scrutiny was necessary.

## Partnerships

Councillors were mindful of the Scrutiny Review on Partnerships agreed by Cabinet in February 2007. Councillors who had experience of the Area Partnerships and Rural Voices, Rural Choices were unanimous that the development workers were integral to the successful work of their partnerships and, while they were mindful of the emphasis placed on the Local Strategic Partnership and the Local Area Agreement in Report No 70/08, Guidance on Partnership Working, agreed by Cabinet in April 2008, wished to collect evidence to this effect. Councillors were aware that the Area Partnerships Chairs themselves could make a case to the Lead Councillor for Community for the continuation of the grant funding for development workers prior to the 2009/10 budget consultations in January 2009.

### Resolved:

**6.7** That the Scrutiny Secretary be requested to write to the Chairs of the Area Partnerships and Rural Voice, Rural Choices detailing the funding provided for the development workers for 2008/09 and requesting details of the contribution made by the development workers to their Area Partnerships to date.

Scrutiny  
Secretary

## Recycling

While councillors agreed unanimously the importance of this subject, and recognised that the public would continue to direct comment

and criticisms to councillors and officers, they were aware that the seminars held in the Summer and Autumn 2007 had looked in great detail at recycling options and had led to the agreed Lead Councillor Cabinet Report No 23/08 of February 2008 which was to be implemented alongside the Annual Monitoring Report and Improvement Plan.

Resolved:

**6.8** That a further review of recycling was not appropriate at present.

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Delegated Powers

Resolved:

**6.9** That the subject of delegated powers be reconsidered as a possible subject for review following the conclusion of the Ward Councillors Role review.

## **7 Councillors' Training Requirements**

The Committee considered Report No 111/08 which allowed the Committee to identify any training needs for the coming year.

Resolved

**7.1** That the Report be noted.

## **8 Date of Next Meeting**

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for 11 September 2008 at 9:30am in the Warren Room, Lewes House

The meeting ended at **11:25** .

**E E J Russell** Chair