

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CORPORATE RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,  
KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 11TH JUNE 2009 (6.00PM)

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**Present:**

Councillors: G Ballinger (Chairman), Mrs J Greener (Vice-Chairman), M Ahmed, Mrs H E Dyke, B T Glass, C Nicholls, M Partridge, K J Stokes, J Thomas, N J Thomas, S Williams, and G C Yarranton.

**Observers:**

Councillors: J-P Campion, Mrs A Hingley and J Phillips.

**CR.1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J Aston, A Buckley, Miss S C Meekings and M Salter

**CR.2 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor S J Williams was appointed as a substitute for Councillor M Salter, Councillor G C Yarranton was appointed as a substitute for Councillor A J Buckley and Councillor J Phillips was appointed as a substitute for Councillor Miss S C Meekings.

**CR.3 Declaration of Interests**

No declarations of interest were made.

**CR.4 Minutes**

**Agreed: The minutes of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**CR.5 No Barriers Review Panel**

The Media and Marketing Officer gave members of the committee a verbal update on the No Barrier Review Panel and reminded members of the rationale behind the awards, also advising them of the membership of the awards and review panels. Members were informed that publicity had been produced to support the awards and this included posters and packs, copies of which would be sent to all Members.

Members were also reminded of the previous year's winners, and that community members would be invited to the awards ceremony with Group Leaders nominating

members of their groups to attend.

Members were advised that the closing date for the awards was the 24<sup>th</sup> July and that they would be considered on the 27<sup>th</sup> July.

**Agreed: The information be noted.**

**CR.6 Corporate Performance Clinics**

The Committee received a report (copies of which had been circulated) on the Corporate Resources Clinics. The purpose of the report was to advise Members of the draft Terms of Reference and the working arrangements for the Corporate Performance Clinics.

The Corporate Development and Improvement Manager outlined the content of the report and explained that the Clinic would strengthen the current performance management arrangements. Moreover that it would monitor performance and highlight good practice which would then be used throughout the Council. It was further explained that this was a supportive process, and that where there was under performance, support would be given and that managers would be empowered to ensure that services met agreed performance targets through the implementation of an approved improvement plan.

The Committee was advised that there would be quarterly exception reports that highlighted underperformance, and highlight reports that identified good practice. Further that there would be review of the Clinic in March 2010.

Councillor Campion addressed the Committee and explained that this was an opportunity to add to and support the scrutiny process. Further, that Members could attend the Clinics although the meetings would be held in private.

**Agreed:**

- 1. That the Committee receives on a quarterly basis, an 'Exception' report from the Corporate Performance Clinics held during that period, setting out key issues that have been addressed and the resulting actions/outcomes, if known at that stage.**
- 2. That the Committee be engaged in a review of the effectiveness of the Corporate Performance Clinic in March 2010.**

**CR.7 Corporate Plan Priorities and Performance Indicators for 2009/10**

The Committee received a report (copies of which had been circulated) on the Corporate Plan Priorities and Performance Indicators for 2009/10. The purpose of the report was to inform the Committee of the Corporate Plan Priority targets for 2009/10 and the National and Local performance indicators which would be monitored during 2009/10.

The Policy and Performance Officer outlined the content of the report advising Members that the plan included the four priorities (more affordable housing, reducing waste to landfill and increasing recycling, district wide regeneration and improving

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efficiency and value for money) to help focus Council's activity and allocation of resources.

Members were advised of the reduction in the number of servers from 84 to 10 and of the benefits this would bring; further that the average number of days taken as sick leave would be reduced from 8.8 days to 8.5, which was comparable with peers. Members were also advised that reducing avoidable contacts would support the Council aim in becoming more efficient.

18:45 Councillor Yarranton left the meeting.

In response to a question regarding housing, Members were advised that that this was a challenging target in the current climate, however the Housing Team were on target and pipeline schemes were going ahead.

Members were also advised that NI191 was to be reduced to £550 kg's per household as it was felt that this was a more stretching target.

#### **Agreed:**

- 1. That the Corporate Plan Priorities, National Indicators and Local Performance Indicators for 2009/10 be noted.**
- 2. That the effectiveness of the Exception and Highlight reporting from the Corporate Performance Clinics to this Committee be reviewed in March 2010.**

#### **CR.8 Work Programme**

The Chairman asked that Members review the Work Programme items and spoke to the Chair, Vice Chair or the Committee Officer on those items that they were interested in.

Members were reminded that if they wanted to involve the press on any item that in they needed to speak to the Corporate Development and Improvement Manager in the first instance.

**Agreed: That Members of the Committee contacted either the Chair, Vice Chair or Committee Officer regarding the Work Programme items they were interested in.**

#### **CR.9 Exempt Information**

**Decision: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.**

**CR.10 Summary of Minutes**

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items has been made as "exempt Information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

**CR.11 Minutes**

The exempt minutes of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

**CR.12 Single Site**

The Committee were updated on the progress of the Single site.

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 7pm.**