

Strategic Overview & Scrutiny Panel

Town Hall, Colchester

7 April 2009 at 6:00pm

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel deals with reviewing corporate strategies within the Council's Strategic Plan, the Council's budgetary guidelines for the forthcoming year, scrutinising the Forward Plan, the performance of Portfolio Holders and scrutiny of Cabinet decisions or Cabinet Member decisions (with delegated power) which have been called in.

Information for Members of the Public

Access to information and meetings

You have the right to attend all meetings of the Council, its Committees and Cabinet. You also have the right to see the agenda, which is usually published 5 working days before the meeting, and minutes once they are published. Dates of the meetings are available at www.colchester.gov.uk or from Democratic Services.

Have Your Say!

The Council values contributions from members of the public. Under the Council's Have Your Say! policy you can ask questions or express a view to meetings, with the exception of Standards Committee meetings. If you wish to speak at a meeting or wish to find out more, please pick up the leaflet called "Have Your Say" at Council offices and at www.colchester.gov.uk.

Private Sessions

Occasionally meetings will need to discuss issues in private. This can only happen on a limited range of issues, which are set by law. When a committee does so, you will be asked to leave the meeting.

Mobile phones, pagers, cameras, audio recorders

Please ensure that all mobile phones and pagers are turned off before the meeting begins and note that photography or audio recording is not permitted.

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Terms of Reference

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- To review corporate strategies
- To ensure the actions of the Cabinet accord with the policies and budget of the Council
- To monitor and scrutinise the financial performance of the Council, and make recommendations to the Cabinet particularly in relation to annual revenue and capital guidelines, bids and submissions
- To link the Council's spending proposals to the policy priorities and review progress towards achieving those priorities against the Strategic / Action Plans
- To scrutinise executive decisions made by Cabinet and the East Essex Area Waste Management Joint Committee and Cabinet Member decisions (with delegated authority taking a corporate / strategic decision) which have been made but not implemented, and referred to the Panel through call-in.

The panel may a) confirm the decision, which may then be implemented immediately, b) confirm the decision back to the decision taker for further consideration setting out in writing the nature of its concerns, or c) refer the matter to full Council in the event that the panel considers the decision to be contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council or contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with the Budget.

- To monitor effectiveness and application of the call-in procedure, to report on the number and reasons for call-in and to make recommendations to the Council on any changes required to ensure an effective operation.
- To scrutinise the Cabinet's performance in relation to the Forward Plan.
- To scrutinise the performance of Portfolio Holders.
- At the request of the Cabinet, make decisions about the priority of referrals made in the event of the volume of reports to the Cabinet or creating difficulty for the running of Cabinet business or jeopardising the efficient running of Council business.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
STRATEGIC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL
7 April 2009 at 6:00pm

Members

Chairman : Councillor Arnold.
Deputy Chairman : Councillor Kimberley.
Councillors Barlow, Cory, Hazell, Higgins, Hogg, Naish,
Pyman, Taylor and Young.

Substitute Members : All members of the Council who are not Cabinet members or members of this Panel.

Agenda - Part A

(open to the public including the media)

Members of the public may wish to note that agenda items 1 to 5 are normally brief and agenda items 6 to 9 are standard items for which there may be no business to consider.

Pages

1. Welcome and Announcements

(a) The Chairman to welcome members of the public and Councillors and to remind all speakers of the requirement for microphones to be used at all times.

(b) At the Chairman's discretion, to announce information on:

- action in the event of an emergency;
- mobile phones switched to off or to silent;
- location of toilets;
- introduction of members of the meeting.

2. Substitutions

Members may arrange for a substitute councillor to attend a meeting on their behalf, subject to prior notice being given. The attendance of substitute councillors must be recorded.

3. Urgent Items

To announce any items not on the agenda which the Chairman has agreed to consider because they are urgent and to give reasons for the urgency.

4. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman to invite Councillors to declare individually any personal

interests they may have in the items on the agenda.

If the personal interest arises because of a Councillor's membership of or position of control or management on:

- any body to which the Councillor has been appointed or nominated by the Council; or
- another public body

then the interest need only be declared if the Councillor intends to speak on that item.

If a Councillor declares a personal interest they must also consider whether they have a prejudicial interest. If they have a prejudicial interest they must leave the room for that item.

If a Councillor wishes to make representations on an item on which they have a prejudicial interest they may do so if members of the public are allowed to make representations. In such circumstances a Councillor must leave the room immediately once they have finished speaking.

An interest is considered to be prejudicial if a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard it as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Councillor's judgement of the public interest.

Councillors should consult paragraph 7 of the Meetings General Procedure Rules for further guidance.

5. Minutes

1 - 8

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2009.

6. Have Your Say!

(a) The Chairman to invite members of the public to indicate if they wish to speak or present a petition at this meeting – either on an item on the agenda or on a general matter not on this agenda. You should indicate your wish to speak at this point if your name has not been noted by Council staff.

(b) The Chairman to invite contributions from members of the public who wish to Have Your Say! on a general matter not on this agenda.

7. Items requested by members of the Panel and other Members

(a) To evaluate requests by members of the Panel for an item

relevant to the Panel's functions to be considered.

(b) To evaluate requests by other members of the Council for an item relevant to the Panel's functions to be considered.

8. Referred items under the Call in Procedure

To consider any Portfolio Holder decisions, taken under the Call in Procedure.

The panel may a) confirm the decision, which may then be implemented immediately, b) confirm the decision back to the decision taker for further consideration setting out in writing the nature of its concerns, or c) refer the matter to full Council in the event that the panel considers the decision to be contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council or contrary to, or not wholly in accordance with the Budget.

9. Decisions taken under special urgency provisions

To consider any Portfolio Holder decisions taken under the special urgency provisions.

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|--|----------------|
| 10. Work Programme 2008-09 | 9 - 10 |
| See report from the Scrutiny Officer. | |
| 11. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods | 11 - 12 |
| See report from the Scrutiny Officer | |
| 12. Review of the work of the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Strategy | 13 - 14 |
| See report from the Scrutiny Officer. | |
| 13. Responsibilities of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration (in preparation for the next meeting) | 15 - 16 |
| See report from the Scrutiny Officer. | |
| 14. Exclusion of the public | |
| Occasionally the Panel will need to discuss issues in private. When the Panel does so, members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting. | |

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended) to exclude the public, including the press, from the meeting so that any items containing exempt information (for example confidential personal, financial or legal advice), in Part B of this agenda (printed on yellow paper) can be decided. (Exempt information is defined in Section 100I and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972).

STRATEGIC OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

17 MARCH 2009

Present :- Councillor Christopher Arnold (Chairman)
Councillors Nick Barlow, Mark Cory, Pauline Hazell,
Peter Higgins, Mike Hogg, Margaret Kimberley,
Kim Naish, Gaye Pyman, Nick Taylor and Julie Young

43. Minutes

RESOLVED that;

- i) The minute of the meeting held on 10 February 2009 was confirmed as a correct record.
- ii) The panel requested an update from the Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services, in respect of the ward newsletter article confirming the site of new dog bins in the ward, before the list of new sites was published and the information circulated.

44. Items requested by another member of the Council

Councillor Lewis addressed the panel, requesting that an investigation should take place concerning the planned removal of many of Colchester's rose borders and shrubberies. Councillor Lewis, speaking for both herself and Councillor Hardy, said they were concerned that this planned removal would include those borders that decorated war memorials, for example the memorial at the Albert Roundabout garden. Councillor Lewis later explained that she had received no response from officers this afternoon following her telephone and email enquiry.

Councillor Smith, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources addressed the panel and explained that many Councillors have come forward and questioned the removal of borders at specific sites and therefore officers have been requested to suspend this ongoing work at these sites until further notice. Councillor Smith was unaware of Councillor Lewis's enquiries that afternoon, and apologised for the lack of response.

Councillor Arnold explained to the panel that given this work had formed part of a service decision and was not strategic, that he and Councillor Lissimore had agreed that the Finance and Audit Panel was the appropriate panel to deal with this issue of concern.

Following further discussions the panel resolved the following;

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Officer would invite the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Tourism and Diversity to attend the next meeting of the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Panel (24 March 2009) to discuss this issue of concern.

Councillor Nick Taylor (in respect of being a Councillor for Mile End) declared a

personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

Councillor Christopher Arnold (in respect of being a resident of Great Horkesley) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3) The chairmanship of this item was taken by deputy chairman, Councillor Kimberley.

Councillor Kim Naish (in respect of his occupation as a private hire operator) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

45. Referred items under the Call in Procedure

The strategic decision, reference RES-022-08 'In the capacity of Stadium owner recommended that the Weston Homes Community Stadium Travel Management Plan dated 10 December 2008 be approved by the local Planning and Highways authorities (Colchester Borough Council Planning Services and Essex County Council Highways Department), taken by the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Business on the 12 February 2009.

This decision was called in by Councillor Chapman, supported by four Councillors. The reason for the call in is that the decision has not given regard to the following principle of good practice 'having regard to due consultation', as stated in part 2, article 13.02 of the Constitution, specifically, the lack of consultation with adjacent Parishes Councils i.e. Boxted and Gt Horkesley, and with the ward Councillors for the adjacent ward of Fordham & Stour.

Councillor Chapman and Councillor Paul Smith, Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources attended the meeting for this item.

Councillor Chapman presented the case for the call in, expanding on the reasons given within the call in papers, but stressing this was not a political issue, but what he considered to be a need for clarification of the consultation areas. Councillor Chapman said the Travel Plan was a very good document, but as shown in paragraph 7.1 or the accompanying report, the Ward Councillors for Fordham and Stour did not form part of the consultation process, though as a neighbouring ward would be directly affected by travel plan procedures on Colchester United match days.

Councillor Smith in response said he would have preferred a dialogue between himself and Ward councillors prior to the call-in to try to resolve the issue beforehand.

Councillor Smith said the Travel Plan was not a once and for all process, but would evolve as issues are raised and considered, and referring to Appendix 4 of the Travel Plan that showed the composition of the Stadium Travel Plan Liaison Group, said this group would have the responsibility to consider, and endeavour to resolve such issues. Councillor Smith did not consider there had been a lack of consultation, with twelve local open meetings held to discuss the Travel Plan and any issues arising from

the discussions.

Councillor Arnold said the difficulties with the decision taken arose out of the change of administration in 2008, with the previous Portfolio Holder, Brian Jarvis informing the Ward Councillors for Fordham and Stour appropriately. Councillor Arnold spoke about specific problems with the current Travel Plan which have come to light during the first months of operation, for example, no signage for motorists visiting the stadium from north of the town centre (A134), the need to monitor small roads north of the stadium (off the A134) on match days e.g. Blackbrook Road, and no signage to alert motorists before matches to impending police diversions on match days.

Councillor J Young concurred with Councillor Arnold for the need for improved road signage on match days and understood the breakdown in the line of communication given that Brian Jarvis had not been the relevant Portfolio Holder since June 2008.

In response to Councillor J Young, Councillor Chapman said whilst he did not believe there was a need for himself to be involved a year ago, this had changed due to the problems that had manifested in the last few months.

Councillor Smith, in response to Councillor Hazell, said to extend the consultation period would delay the implementation of the decision, a time consuming process that would probably go beyond early summer and in breach of the S106 agreement.

Councillor J Young, acknowledging the need for the Fordham and Stour Ward to be represented on the Stadium Travel Plan Liaison Group (STPLG) proposed that the panel confirm the decision, but request the Portfolio Holder to arrange for the Fordham and Stour Ward to be represented on the Stadium Travel Plan Liaison Group.

RESOLVED that the panel confirmed the decision, reference RES-022-08 'Weston Homes Community Stadium Travel Management Plan' and requested that the Portfolio Holder for Business and Resources recommend to the Stadium Travel Plan Liaison Group that they include members of the Fordham and Stour Ward on their group.

46. Work Programme

RESOLVED that;

- i) The rolling work programme was noted.
- ii) The panel agreed to the deferment to a future meeting, the following two items,
 - i) The review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning to an extra meeting, the date to be agreed, and
 - ii) The final report on 'New build Nuclear Power Station at Bradwell' to an extra meeting, the date to be agreed.

47. Waste prevention and recycling options appraisal report

Have Your Say

Mrs Paula Whitney addressed the panel saying she believed there was no option within the options appraisal report that fitted what Colchester needed, and even questioned the appropriateness of some of the options being put forward for discussion. Mrs Whitney urged the panel to consider the report by Mr. McManus on the cost of recyclables in line with the options appraisal report, and asked that the collection of food waste be addressed as soon as possible.

Waste prevention and recycling options appraisal report

Mr. Matthew Young, Head of Street Services, prior to his presentation on the quantitative aspects of waste collection and recycling, explained to the panel that this was the start of the waste to resources review, with the purpose and key measure to minimise waste to landfill and increase reuse, recycling and composting.

Mr. Young's presentation explained;

- At Colchester, the current level of total waste recycled and composted was 33% in 2007/08 and was likely to be between 36 and 37%
- Colchester's target was to reach 40% by 2010/11.
- All the top performing and top improving local authorities have introduced wheeled bin / boxes collections based on an alternate weekly collection basis.
- Rochford Council, since the recent introduction of food waste and wheeled bin collections have increased their recycling and composting rate from under 20% to over 60%.
- In 2007/08 the cost of waste collection in Colchester was £49 per household.
- The cost of waste collection in the East Midlands, the most successful area in the country in terms of recycling and composting rates, ranges from £50 to £84 per household.

Mr. Young concluded by saying he hoped the panel would endorse the Policy Review and Development Panel to recommend a task and finish group to examine all the issues, with cross party membership and consultation with local residents.

Councillor Arnold commented that whilst we had to accept that Colchester' had fallen behind in terms of recycling rates, it should not be forgotten that it was still an excellent performing Council in terms of the level of overall waste collected from each household.

Councillor J Young said that informing and educating local residents in waste collection and recycling was imperative to improving performance, and that it was essential that the local media contributed towards this aim.

Mr. Young confirmed to Councillor J Young, and later to other panel members, that a task and finish group would as part of its terms of reference, need to consider pilot studies on waste collection, visit and consult with excellent performing Councils, consider issues such as the suitability of wheeled bins for the older people, recycling at blocks of flats and large residential establishments, the types of different freighters that

would comprise the overall fleet and the costs involved with all aspects of collection.

Councillor Dopson, Portfolio Holder for Performance and Partnerships addressed the panel to confirm that she endorsed the thoughts of the panel, that reducing waste to landfill will be of greater importance than just upping waste recycling rates. Councillor Dopson said it was imperative to educate local residents and children at schools, on food waste and food separation, saying where education had been given in other places, e.g. Preston, it had shocked local people of the amount of food wasted, and resulted in an automatic reduction.

Councillor Dopson confirmed that as stated in paragraph 8.2 of the report, all options of waste collection would be considered, and as yet, no decisions have been taken regarding the introduction of any of the options.

RESOLVED that the panel:

- i) Noted the report 'Waste prevention and recycling options appraisal'.
- ii) Endorsed the recommendation of the Policy Review and Development Panel that a Task and Finish Group be formed to investigate in more detail the options for and to make recommendations on the future delivery of the waste and recycling service.
- iii) Requested that should a Task and Finish Group be agreed by the Cabinet, that this group considers the points raised by the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel within the minutes of the meeting of the 17 March 2009.
- iv) Requested the Cabinet to endorse all aspects of education (e.g. road shows in Wards and to Parish Councils that includes similar information as presented to the Panel) to be considered by the Task and Finish Group.
- v) Requested the Cabinet to ensure the Task and Finish Group considers the reduction in 'Waste Collected' as important as an increase in recycling rates when considering the options on waste collection and recycling.

Councillor Julie Young (in respect of being a Member of Essex County Council) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

Councillor Mike Hogg (in respect of his employment at Colchester General Hospital) declared a personal interest in the following item pursuant to the provisions of Meetings General Procedure Rule 7(3)

48. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Partnerships

Councillor Dopson, Portfolio Holder for Performance and Partnerships attended the meeting for this item and addressed the panel.

Councillor Dopson, in her first year as a Portfolio Holder said as a personal wish, how much an incoming Portfolio Holder would benefit from succession planning and training.

Councillor Dopson gave a presentation on the progress and successes in the work of the services that fall within the remit of her portfolio.

- Strategic Waste Issues and the continual involvement at the East Essex Joint Waste Committee, which she continued to attend on a regular basis and do what she believed was the best for the residents of Colchester.
- A visit to Preston as part of the ongoing work on food waste and collection, the launch of Colchester's Tastiest Leftovers and attendance at the Eco Schools Conference.
- Performance monitoring included People and Service Area targets and outputs, National Indicators as part of the Council's Performance Dashboard (to be introduced to the Intranet during 2009-10), working with local and county partners on the Local Strategic Partnership and Local Area Agreements.
- Community Services work on tackling deprivation, improving the lives of the elderly and vulnerable with greater access to welfare rights, community development via rural grants and overseeing community health projects as part of healthy living.

The economic downturn had resulted in a volatile waste recycle buying and selling market, resulting in some authorities stockpiling recyclates until the market picks up. Councillor Dopson was confident that Colchester would continue robust conversations with companies to ensure good collection rates to compliment our current separation procedures and without selling on to poor sale streams.

Councillor Dopson confirmed that there is an annual review by Colchester for grant funding, though the level of funding has reduced over recent years. The Colchester Community Voluntary Sector Partnership is responsible for the approval of grants and organisation members know the funding procedure. Notice of grants or withdrawal of funding is given in October of each year, six months before the funding takes effect, and if the funding ceases, the organisation is given three months statutory notice as part of the decision taken, though the Council will support the organisation in seeking funding from other sources. Councillor Dopson said the policy adopted was good though she believed the Council would benefit from the clarity gained by more discussions with the funded organisations. Councillor Dopson confirmed that ward councillors would be informed as work progresses on home insulation grant work in the New Town area.

Councillor Dopson confirmed to the panel that following on from the Schools consultation, she would respond to Essex County Council to try to get County to monitor and track the education of those children caught in the transitional period of change, a position later commended by Councillor Higgins.

Councillor Dopson confirmed her chairmanship of CYPSP (Children and Young People Strategic Partnership) Board that reports to the PSP (Public Sector Partnership) on 25 targets, with the focus of the partnership on pulling in resources to provide financial and expertise support to focus and help deliver on the targets. Councillor Kimberley,

speaking from experience, said the work of CYPSP could have faltered without the focus and hard work of staff within the Community Partnership service area of Life Opportunities. Councillor Dopson said she would welcome an internal review of the partnership working of CYPSP by the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel in 2009-10.

Councillor Dopson confirmed to Councillor Arnold that due to all her commitments so far she had been unable to attend a CALC meeting (Colchester Association of Local Councils), though she did receive the minutes from these meetings and was shortly to attend a meeting.

In terms of rural issues, Councillor Dopson also confirmed to Councillor Arnold some of the current rural work being undertaken, such as, Tiptree's engagement with the 'stop smoking' campaign, with a local GP working in partnership with Council officers to set up a group of local patients for monitoring, and if successful, to role out to other areas. Councillor Hogg was heartened by Councillor Dopson's view that the 'Sure-Start' initiative should be rolled out to other rural areas, given that since the Birch Sure-Start initiative had been introduced, the delivery had gone way beyond everyone's wildest expectations.

RESOLVED that the panel:

- i) Noted the responses from the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Partnerships and thanked her for attending the meeting.
- ii) Requested the Cabinet to consider for the future, that all incoming Portfolio Holders should receive succession planning and training.
- iii) Agreed to an internal review of the partnership working of CYPSP by the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel in 2009-10.

49. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration

RESOLVED that the panel agreed to defer this item to a later meeting.

50. Responsibilities of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods

RESOLVED that the panel noted the responsibilities of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods in preparation for the next meeting.

51. Responsibilities of the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

RESOLVED that the panel noted the responsibilities of the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Strategy in preparation for the next meeting.



Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Item
10

7 April 2009

Report of	Scrutiny Officer	Author	Robert Judd
			Tel. 282274
Title	Work Programme 2008-09		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

This report sets out the rolling 2008/09 Work Programme for the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

1. Action Required

1.1 The Panel is asked to consider and note the rolling 2008-09 Work Programme.

2. Reason for Action

2.1 This function forms part of the Panel's Terms of Reference in the Constitution therefore there are no alternative options.

3. The role of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

3.1 Overview and scrutiny needs to be member-led with member engagement that will include undertaking research when considering issues prior to panel meetings and preparing questions for witnesses being called. Likewise, senior officers will play their full part in supporting the scrutiny function in a positive and participative manner. By doing this a culture of positive and meaningful challenge can be created.

4. Standard References

4.1 There are no policy plan references or financial, human rights, community safety or health and safety implications in this matter.

4.2 The work of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel is a key function to ensure items within the programme are subject to full appraisal and in line with the aims of the strategic plan, and helps to check that risks are identified and challenged.

Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09 (last updated 23 March 2009)

Outstanding items for 2008-09

- Review of Colchester2020 partnership arrangements – to be rescheduled for early May (date tbc)
- Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning – to be scheduled for the first extra meeting following the meeting of 7 April 2009.
- Final report on 'New Build Nuclear Power Station at Bradwell' (date tbc)

10 June 2008

1. Review of Neighbourhood Action Panels (Head of Enterprise and Communities)

15 July 2008 (reconvened from 10 June 2008)

1. Strategic Plan 2006-09, 2007/08 Action Plan (Head of Corporate Services).

26 August 2008 (rescheduled to 8 September 2008)

1. Review of the Budget Strategy and Timetable (Head of Financial Services)

23 September 2008

1. The New Bradwell Nuclear Power Station – The Mersea Centre (MICA), West Mersea

4 November 2008

1. Roman Heritage (Head of Strategic Policy and Regeneration / Col. & Ipswich Museum Man.)
2. A review of the Council's partnership arrangements with Firstsite
3. Consultation paper on Strategic Siting Process for New Nuclear Power Stations

16 December 2008

1. Carbon Reduction Management – Programme review (Head of Street Services)
2. Life Opportunities (Head of Life Opportunities)
3. Performance related pay for Cabinet Members (Head of Corporate Services)

6 January 2009

1. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Business
2. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Culture, Tourism and Diversity
3. The Strategic Plan 2009-2012
4. Interim review of National Indicators

10 February 2009

1. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Street and Waste Services
2. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Communications and Customers
3. Scrutiny Report (Scrutiny Officer)
4. Greenways Care Home – response from Cllr Finch, ECC PH (ref. Council 11-Dec-08)

17 March 2009

1. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Performance and Partnerships
2. Waste prevention and recycling options appraisal

7 April 2009

1. Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods
2. Review of the work of the Leader of Council, Portfolio Holder for Strategy

Call ins

- 10-June-08 Consultation resp. Draft Essex Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2007-32
- 17-Mar-09 Weston Homes Community Stadium Travel Plan

To be scheduled for 2009-10

- 'Going for Growth' (growth v infrastructure) (Executive Director Place Shaping/Head of Strategic Policy and Regeneration), item deferred from 2008 - Chair of SOSP/Executive Director.
- Life Opportunities - Year end performance report (ref. SOSP 16-Dec-08)
- Climate Change and Carbon Management (ref. SOSP 16-Dec-08)
- Greenways Care Home progress (ref. SOSP 10-Feb-09 – late autumn 09)
- Strategic review of CDRP (2xYearly, first - August 2010 Hd of Life Opportunities)
- Strategic review of CYPSP (agreed with PH)(SOSP 17-Mar-09)



Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Item
11

7 April 2009

Report of	Scrutiny Officer	Author	Robert Judd Tel. 282274
Title	Review of the work of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

This report sets out the responsibilities of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods.

1. Action Required

1.1 The Panel is asked to review the work of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods.

2. Responsibilities of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods

- (i) To promote the Council's Housing Strategy and to monitor its implementation.
- (ii) To examine and review the operation of Colchester Borough Homes.

Major Project(s) includes the Allocations review.

3. Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhoods

3.1 To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:-

- Public sector dwellings, management of Council owned dwellings and other properties and their environs including the setting of rents in accordance with the Management Agreement dated 11 August 2003 between the Council and Colchester Borough Homes Limited (Public Sector).
- Tenant selection and nomination criteria and conditions of tenancy (Public Sector).
- The Council's statutory responsibilities to homeless persons (Public Sector).
- The Council's relationship with Housing Associations (Public Sector).
- The Right to Buy Scheme (Public Sector).
- Non-statutory housing functions such as housing advice (Private Sector).
- The Council's statutory responsibilities in respect of housing standards (Private Sector).
- Support schemes to Building Societies and Banks and the making of mortgage advances by the Council for house purchase and improvement (Private Sector).

- Housing standards and the protection of persons from unlawful eviction or harassment (Private Sector).
- Private Sector Housing Grants.
- The promotion of the Council on regional and sub regional bodies in relation to housing completions and housing developments.
- Procurement of specified services for the dissemination of information regarding all housing matters.
- Home loss, disturbance and similar payments (general).

4. Standard References

- 4.1 There are no policy plan references or financial, human rights, community safety or health and safety implications in this matter.
- 4.2 Scrutiny is a key function to ensuring the work of the Portfolio Holder is subject to full appraisal and in line with the aims of the strategic plan.



Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Item
12

7 April 2009

Report of

Scrutiny Officer

Author **Robert Judd**
Tel. 282274

Title

Review of the work of the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

Wards affected

Not applicable

This report sets out the responsibilities of the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy.

1. Action Required

1.1 The Panel is asked to review the work of the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy.

2. Responsibilities of the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

2.1 The responsibilities are as follows;

- (i) To oversee the development and ongoing review of the Council's Strategic Plan.
- (ii) To monitor the implementation of the Council's Strategic Plan, including ensuring Council resources are deployed to support strategic priorities.
- (iii) To promote the Council's Strategic Plan to Councillors, partners and the community as a whole.
- (iv) To develop and promote community leadership in the Borough.
- (v) To oversee and monitor the Council's financial strategy, budget and resource allocation.
- (vi) To review the opportunities to work with other partners, both within the public and private sectors, to assist in developing 'joined-up' government.
- (vii) To determine a communications strategy that will support and deliver the Council's vision and policy priorities.

Major Project(s) in Portfolio: Haven Gateway Partnership, Regional Cities East Partnership and Colchester 2020.

3. Delegation to the leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Strategy

- The promotion of the Council on regional and sub-regional bodies in relation to developing regional partnerships.

- Relations with the general public, local authorities, the media and all other external agencies including the Local Strategic Partnership (Colchester2020).
- Matters relating to financial strategy, the budget and resource allocation.
- Following consultation with Group Leaders, to make appointments during the municipal year to Council Groups and Outside Bodies.
- Financial management of the Housing Revenue Account.

4. Standard References

- 4.1 There are no policy plan references or financial, human rights, community safety or health and safety implications in this matter.
- 4.2 Scrutiny is a key function to ensuring the work of the Portfolio Holder is subject to full appraisal and in line with the aims of the strategic plan.



Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Item
13

7 April 2009

Report of

Scrutiny Officer

Author **Robert Judd**
Tel. 282274

Title

The responsibilities of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration

Wards affected

Not applicable

This report sets out the responsibilities of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration in preparation for the panel's next meeting.

1. Action Required

- 1.1 The Panel is asked to consider the work of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration in preparation for the panel's next meeting.

2. Responsibilities of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration

- 2.1 The responsibilities are as follows;

- (i) To oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Council's policies and services relating to all planning activities including conservation and building control.
- (ii) To monitor the implementation of the Local Plan.
- (iii) To promote and procure the implementation of the Borough Council's Transport Strategy in partnership with Essex County Council, the responsible Transport Authority and other partners, to improve infrastructure.
- (iv) To promote partnership working with Essex County Council, the responsible transport authority.
- (v) To oversee major regeneration projects which impact upon the Council's landholdings.
- (vi) To support local and regional partnerships which can lever in new investment into the borough's four regeneration areas.

Major projects in the portfolio include the Cultural Quarter, Vineyard Gate, North Colchester, including the Community Stadium and East Colchester.

3. Delegation to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration

- 3.1 To procure the specified service in the provision, implementation, maintenance and management of:
- Functions as Local Planning Authority (planning)
 - Building regulations and allied legislation relating to dangerous buildings and safety at sports grounds (planning).

- The preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents and the issue of draft Supplementary Planning Documents for consultation - Local Development Framework (LDF).
- To agree the Statement of Community Involvement and the Annual Monitoring Report (LDF).

To procure and or encourage the procurement of the delivery of the Council's regeneration agenda including sustainable housing, infrastructure, employment and leisure facilities.

To develop policies in relation to sustainability, and to oversee and promote the implementation of the Nottingham Declaration objectives.

4. Standard References

- 4.1 There are no policy plan references or financial, human rights, community safety or health and safety implications in this matter.
- 4.2 Scrutiny is a key function to ensuring the work of the Portfolio Holder is subject to full appraisal and in line with the aims of the strategic plan.

