

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA



THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009

**Time:** 7.15pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber, Causeway House, Braintree

## Membership:

Councillor J. Baugh	Councillor A. M. Meyer
Councillor G. Cohen	Councillor R. Ramage
Councillor M. Dunn	Councillor D. E. A. Rice
Councillor Dr. R. L. Evans	Councillor A. F. Shelton
Councillor M. G. Gage (Chairman)	Councillor Mrs. J. A. Smith
Councillor J. E. B. Gyford	Councillor F. Swallow

**Members are requested to attend this meeting, to transact the following business:-**

### 1. Apologies for Absence

### 2. Member Declarations.

- (i) To declare the existence and nature of any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the agenda having regard to paragraphs 8 to 12 (inclusive) of the Code of Conduct for Members in Part 5 of the Constitution and having taken appropriate advice (where necessary) before the meeting.
- (ii) Any member with a 'personal and prejudicial' interest to indicate whether he/she intends to make representations in accordance with paragraph 12 (2) of the Code of Conduct as part of Question Time.
- (iii) To declare the existence and nature of any instruction given by or on behalf of a political group to any Councillor who is a member of that group as to how that Councillor shall speak or vote on any matter before the Committee or the application or threat to apply any sanction by the group in respect of that Councillor should he/she speak or vote on any particular matter.

*[Note: A member with a personal and prejudicial interest must withdraw from the room or chamber whilst the item of business the subject of such prejudicial interest is being considered]*

3. **Minutes.** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009 (copy previously circulated).
4. **Question Time.** (See paragraph on page iv).
5. **Treasury Management - The Council's Investment in Three Banks in Iceland**

Members will recall that this matter was discussed briefly at the meeting of the Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2008. In view of the fact that the Leader of the Council had indicated at full Council on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008 that the Council would be reviewing its investment policies to ensure the safety of the Council's investments, the Committee agreed that it would examine in six months time the following:-

- \* how our Treasury Management processes evolved;
- \* what sources of advice were obtained;
- \* what changes in policy are now being considered.

The report of Mr. T. Wilson, Head of Finance is attached.

Cllr. M. C. M. Lager the Cabinet Member for Efficiency and Resources will also attend for this item.

## 6. **Annual Work Programme 2009/10**

(a) Scoping Report – Section 106 Agreements – Study into how contributions from Section 106 Agreements are managed by the Council, and how they are used to benefit local communities (report attached).

(b) Study into whether there is adequate provision of public toilets in the District (report attached) (Will members please bring with them their Information Pack);

(c) Draft Overall Work Plan for 2009/10 – copy attached. The Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to approve the work plan.

## 7. **Scrutiny of the Municipal Waste Strategy for Essex – Mechanical Biological Treatment Plants and PFI**

Member Feedback from the site visit to the Shanks MBT plant at Frog Island, Rainham on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

## 8. Task and Finish Groups

Bus and Railway Services in the District – Task and Finish Group – to receive a brief verbal update from Cllr. A. Shelton, the Chairman of the Group.

9. **Forward Plan.** To consider the Forward Plan for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009 (copy previously circulated).

## 10. 2010/11 – Budget Scrutiny Process

It is suggested that immediately following tonight's meeting Cllrs. Gage and Ramage who are acting respectively as Chairman of the two informal Budget Sub Groups, meet informally with members to agree the way forward.

Just to remind members, the composition and role of the two groups is as follows:-

**Group 1 (to examine each Portfolio holder's budget costs)** – Cllrs. R. Ramage (Chairman); M. Dunn; A. M. Meyer; A. F. Shelton; Mrs. J. Smith; F. Swallow.

**Group 2 (to examine the criteria against which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would operate in terms of carrying out its scrutiny of the Council's budget)** – Cllrs. M. Gage (Chairman); J. Baugh; G. Cohen; Dr. R. Evans; J. E. B. Gyford; D. E. A. Rice.

The work of the two groups is to be in preparation for the Committee to have two preliminary budget scrutiny meetings with the Cabinet in September – 3 Cabinet members at one meeting and 4 at another.

11. **Urgent Business.** To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.
12. To agree the exclusion of the public and press for the consideration of any items for the reasons set out in Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972.  
*At the time of compiling the agenda there were none.*
13. **Urgent Business.** To consider any matter which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered in private by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

S. Bore  
Scrutiny Manager

If you require any further information relating to this agenda or wish to forward

your apologies for absence, please contact Steve Bore on 551414 extension 2003 or e-mail [stebo@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:stebo@braintree.gov.uk)

*The last page of this agenda is numbered 18.*

### **QUESTION TIME**

Immediately after the Minutes of the previous meeting have been approved there will be a period of up to 30 minutes when members of the public can speak about Council business or other matters of local concern. During this period, councillors who have declared a personal and prejudicial interest in any item of business on the agenda may also speak as permitted by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members . Whilst members of the public can remain to observe the whole of the public part of the meeting, councillors with a prejudicial interest must withdraw whilst the item of business in question is being considered. Members of the public wishing to speak should contact the Council's Democratic Services Section on (01376) 552525 or email [stebo@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:stebo@braintree.gov.uk) prior to the meeting.