

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA



THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING

Date: Wednesday 27th January 2010

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 2nd December 2009.
4. **Question Time.** (See paragraph below).
5. **Budget Scrutiny**

This is the final Budget Scrutiny session in respect of the Cabinet's proposed budget for 2010/11. Will members please bring with them the report and papers that will accompany the 1/2/10 Cabinet Agenda.

The following Cabinet Members and Officer have been asked to attend this meeting:

Cllr. M. Lager, Portfolio Holder for Efficiency and Resources
Cllr. N. Harley, Deputy Leader and Portfolio for Enterprise and Culture
Cllr. Lady Newton, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Well-Being

Officer Support: Mr. T. Wilson, Head of Finance

Scrutiny of the Portfolio Holders proposed budgets will be based on the following questions:-

- (1) Can you explain how you developed your budget for 2010/11 taking into account corporate priorities and the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2008/09 to 2011/12?
- (2) With the current climate, what efficiency savings have you put in place and what effect will they have on services etc.?
- (3) How have you taken decisions about which services are considered priorities and which are not?
- (4) Are there any proposed changes to the budget for service areas and, if so, what are their implications for service users, with particular emphasis on potential areas for budgetary cuts?

There may be supplementary questions that the Committee may wish to ask.

6. **Work Programme Item – Study Into Whether There Is Adequate Provision Of Public Toilets In The District**

To give consideration to the attached report (will Members please bring with them their Information Pack for this study)

7. **Work Programme Item – Study Into How Contributions from Section 106 Agreements are Managed by the Council**

To give consideration to the attached report and accompanying

8. Task and Finish Groups

Public Services Provision for Older People – Task and Finish Group – to receive a brief verbal update from Cllr. R. Ramage the Chairman of the Group.

9. Essex County-Wide Scrutiny Members Meeting

One of the outcomes following the first Essex County-wide conference for Councillors involved in scrutiny in October 2008, was that consideration be given as to how Councillors might continue to meet to explore opportunities for greater collaboration. Cllr. Ramage the Vice Chairman attended the first of these meetings at County Hall on 9th December 2009 and will give a brief verbal update.

10. Forward Plan.

To consider the Forward Plan for the period 1/2/10 to 31/5/10 (copy previously circulated).

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

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 prior to the meeting.