

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA



THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND THIS MEETING

Date: Wednesday 2nd December 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 28th October 2009.

4. **Question Time.** (See paragraph on page iv).

5. **Budget Scrutiny**

This item comprises two parts as described below:-

Part 1: The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has invited all Members to attend this meeting to enable them to receive further information from the Cabinet on the proposed budget. Presentations from the Cabinet will be made under this part and all associated papers will be available to all Members on 26th November 2009.

Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee will scrutinise the Cabinet's proposals.

Part 2: The following Cabinet Members and Officer have been asked to attend this meeting:

Cllr Mrs Schmitt, Portfolio Holder for Communities

Cllr Mrs Beavis, Portfolio Holder for Customers and Communications

Cllr Walters, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability

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

Scrutiny of individual 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 additional questions that the Committee may wish to ask.

6. **Forward Plan.**

To consider the Forward Plan for the period 1/12/09 to 31/3/10 (copy previously circulated).

7. **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.

8. 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.

9. **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

The last page of this agenda is numbered (to be inserted).

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.