

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WAS HELD ON 5 APRIL 2007**

Councillors Carr (P), Davis (P), Dickson (P), Farr (P), Foster (P), Jacobs (P), Kimber (P), Philpott, Redrup (P), Mrs Salter (P), Train (P) and Ward

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor Allen had been nominated to attend this meeting in place of Councillor Ward.

**16. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ward and Philpott.

**17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**18. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 25 January 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**19. REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY**

It was reported that no requests for matters to be scrutinised had been received by the Borough Solicitor.

**20. REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF SCRUTINIES BEING UNDERTAKEN**

Southern Water

At its meeting on 25 January 2007, the Committee had decided that Councillors Davis and Train should carry out work relating to the scope of the scrutiny in respect of Southern Water and submit it to the Committee for approval.

In this respect, Councillor Davis made the following observations:

- The role of scrutiny should be a strategic one which would involve discussions with other organisations and cover all areas of the Borough. The object would be to identify operational issues and actions for the other organisations.
- It would be important to decide on the methodology to be adopted and indicators for success e.g. being consulted over Southern Water's Five Year Business Plan.
- It would be important to hold discussions with key organisations, residents and representatives of community groups.

- Appropriate site visits should be carried out.
- The public should be made aware of the work of the Committee and the progress being made.
- Deadlines should be set and reviews undertaken at appropriate intervals.

Councillor Davis advised that most residents in Bridgemary who were affected by the flooding had now received compensation. A repair and maintenance project valued at £1m had now been put in place by Southern Water to lay larger pipes and install better pumping stations. Generally the infrastructure of the sewers in the Borough had not been updated since the early 1900's and residential development would lead to more widespread problems.

Southern Water were in the process of updating their Business Plan. Addressing the current areas of flooding would be included in the next Business Plan (up 2014). At present there were no plans to consult the Borough Council.

Members were advised that there were issues regarding ownership of pipes and there were several organisations who should be invited to hold discussions with the Committee, including Hampshire County Council, Southern Water and Portsmouth Water Company.

Members were concerned about the adequacy of maintenance regimes and felt that areas of potential flooding should be identified.

It was decided that a Working Group should be set up on a 1:1:1 basis to consider in detail flooding in the Borough and report back to the Committee in the late summer. This would include a scoping exercise and consultation with outside bodies and individuals.

The following nominations for the Working Group were received:

Conservative Group:	Councillor Jacobs
Labour Group:	Councillor Davis
Liberal Democrat Group:	Councillor Carr

The Borough Solicitor and Mr Joe Martin of Democratic Services were thanked by the Committee for their work on this subject.

#### Waterfront Zoning

Members were advised that it had not been possible to make any progress in this area. It was decided that the matter should be further discussed at the first meeting of the Committee in the new Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) a working group be set up on a 1:1:1 basis, with the nominees detailed above, to investigate in detail the flooding problems in the Borough and to report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in late summer 2007; and
- b) Waterfront Zoning be further discussed at the first meeting of the Committee in the Municipal Year 2007/08.

## **21. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a briefing note of the Environmental Services Manager which advised Members of a request from Hampshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee for items to scrutinise during its forthcoming year's programme. A response by 11 May 2007 had been requested.

Members decided that a Working Group should be set up on a 1:1:1 basis which, following discussions with the Environmental Services Manager, would agree and supply a response to the County.

The following nominations were received:

Conservative Group	Councillor Allen
Labour Group	Councillor Train
Liberal Democrat Group	Councillor Mrs Salter

RESOLVED: That a Working Group be set up on a 1:1:1 basis, with the nominees detailed above, to agree and supply the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's response to Hampshire County Council County regarding its request for items to scrutinise during its forthcoming year's programme.

## **22. WORK PROGRAMME/TRAINING PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a briefing note of the Borough Solicitor which advised the Committee of responses from Members on the training session held on 8 February 2007. Members had received scrutiny training on Module 1 entitled "Why Scrutiny Matters" which had been provided by the Local Government Information Unit and South East Employers.

The Borough Solicitor advised that the training session had been successful and that contributions from Members had been encouraging.

Members felt that there would be benefit in working through the rest of the modules during the Municipal Year 2007/08. The remaining modules were:

- Module 2: Defining Priorities
- Module 3: Strategies for Influence
- Module 4: Public Partner and Media Engagement
- Module 5: Leadership

RESOLVED: That training on scrutiny be provided to Members during the Municipal Year 2007/08, based on the remaining four modules supplied by the Local Government Information Unit and South East Employers.

**23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business considered.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and concluded at 6.38 pm

CHAIRMAN