

EAST DORSET DISTRICT COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th April, 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor T. J. Palmer - Chairman

Present: Councillors P. G. Bennett, P. G. Cuckston, R. E. Daw, R. C. Dudman, Mrs J. M. Hazel, P. Holden, J. P. Holland, I. J. Monks, D. Morgan, B. E. Mortimer, Mrs M. B. Osner, M. G. Simper (Vice-Chairman), N. Smith and S. S. Tong (Vice Chairman).

Also in attendance: Councillors D. B. F. Burt, Mrs P. A. Hymers and Mrs B. T. Manuel, Mr A. Breakwell (Chief Executive), Mr N. Farmer (Head of Community Services), Mr M. Hirsh (Head of Planning and Building Control), Mr S. Duckett (Head of Public Health Services) and Ms L. Ellis (Committee Officer).

554. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs T. B. Coombs, P. W. Richardson, N. Smith and Mrs A. Warman.

555. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs J. M. Hazel and Mr A. Breakwell declared a personal interest in Minute No. 556 (Report into the Management and Funding of Council Owned Buildings in East Dorset) and remained present.

RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

556. Report into the Management and Funding of Council-Owned Buildings in East Dorset

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Councillor S. S. Tong, Chairman of the Community and Culture Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee provided Members with an overview of the report into the Management and Funding of Council-Owned Buildings in East Dorset.

The Committee was then provided with an opportunity to raise questions and comment on the report. Members raised concern that the implementation of recommendation (h) would cause issues with the work plan of the Audit Committee, however an amended recommendation would enable a review of the management and funding of Council owned buildings in East Dorset to be added to the rolling programme of non-fundamental systems to be reviewed.

It was suggested, by the Members, that recommendation (h) be amended to read:- *The Audit Committee give urgent consideration to the inclusion of Community Centres at an earlier or more frequent basis in the Audit Plan, with a view to monitoring and reporting on effectiveness and transparency.*

Members agreed with the recommendations of the Community and Culture

Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee, including the proposed amendment to recommendation (h).

RECOMMENDED that the report be forwarded to the Policy and Resources Committee, for consideration.

RESOLVED that recommendation (h) be amended to read:- The Audit Committee give urgent consideration to the inclusion of Community Centres at an earlier or more frequent basis in the Audit Plan, with a view to monitoring and reporting on effectiveness and transparency.

Voting: Unanimous

(Councillor Mrs J. M. Hazel and Mr A. Breakwell declared a personal interest in Minute No. 556 (Report into the Management and Funding of Council Owned Buildings in East Dorset) and remained present).

557. Report into the Review of Pest Control Charges in East Dorset.

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Councillor M. G. Simper, Chairman of the Environment, Health and Housing Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee provided Members with an overview of the review of Pest Control Charges in East Dorset.

Following this the Committee were provided with an opportunity to comment and raise questions on the report. Following a brief discussion Members supported the recommendations of the review into Pest Control Charges in East Dorset.

RECOMMENDED that the report be forwarded to the Policy and Resources Committee, for consideration.

Voting: Unanimous

558. Report into the Review of Planning Enforcement in East Dorset

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'C' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Councillor T. J. Palmer, Chairman of the Performance and Resources Scrutiny and Policy Development Sub-Committee provided Members with an overview of the review into Planning Enforcement in East Dorset.

It was confirmed that Members would continue to be informed when a Planning Enforcement Notice was issued in their Ward. Members felt that this wasn't clearly stated in the report and requested that it be added to the recommendation that this would continue.

The Committee supported the recommendations of the review into Planning Enforcement in East Dorset, subject to the requested addition regarding Planning Enforcement Notices.

RECOMMENDED that that the report be forwarded to the Policy and

Resources Committee, for consideration.

RESOLVED that recommendation (b) (ii) be amended to read:- that Members should receive an enforcement report, at regular intervals, updating progress of ongoing investigations. The existing arrangements for informing Members when enforcement notices are served should be continued.

Voting: Unanimous

559. Review of the Lead Member Reports

The Chief Executive submitted a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

Members were requested to review the benefit of continuing with the Lead Member Reports, in the current format.

RECOMMENDED that the current procedure for Lead Member Reports be discontinued and the Lead Members highlight key matters as and when they arise, through the Members Brief.

Voting: Unanimous

The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN