

At a Meeting of the **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILWORTHY PARK, TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the **14<sup>th</sup>** day of **JUNE 2011** at **2.00pm**

**Present:** Mr D Cloke – Chairman  
Mr D Whitcomb – Vice Chairman  
Mr R Baldwin  
Mrs L Rose

Head of Corporate Services  
Community Delivery Manager  
Borough Committee Secretary

**In attendance** Mr W Cann, OBE  
Mr J McInnes  
Mr T Pearce

**OSC 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mrs A Clish-Green.

**\*OSC 2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**\*OSC 3 INTRODUCTION TO THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY FUNCTION**

The Borough Committee Secretary circulated a guidance booklet which informed new Members of the Committee about the background and current working of the overview & scrutiny function. The Borough Committee Secretary took Members through the various sections as follows:

- Background information
- Annual Reports for the past four years
- Responsibilities
- Call-In procedure
- General role and specific functions
- Scrutiny of crime and disorder
- Councillor Call for Action
- Performance Management
- Devon Health Overview/Scrutiny Committee
- Overview & Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules
- The Centre for Public Scrutiny
- Task & Finish Groups
- Meetings
- Consultation

- Centre for Public Scrutiny
- Terms of Reference
- Procedure Rules
- Call-In Procedure
- Work Programme

**\*OSC 4 BROADBAND UP-DATE**

The Chairman, Councillor D Cloke, provided a verbal report on the work carried by the Joint Broadband Task & Finish Group which consisted of Members from West Devon and South Hams. The Group had met on three occasions over the past six months. A Communication Plan had been drawn up to take forward some of the work that had been initiated by the Group and details of this were given at the meeting.

An announcement had just been made of the success of a combined bid by Devon and Somerset County Councils, under the umbrella of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, to Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) for up to £30m over the next three years to improve broadband connectivity across the rural parts of the two counties. The aim of the bid included providing at least standard broadband connectivity (2 Mbps) to all communities and businesses by 2015 with up to 85% of those households and businesses having superfast broadband connectivity (30Mbps) within the same timescale. The funding from BDUK was being matched by £22m from Devon and Somerset County Councils with further investment expected from private sector partners. Additional contributions were being sought from district councils and the European Union through the South West Competitiveness Programme. A report was being taken to the Strategies & Resources Committee asking for £20,000 as the Council's contribution towards the bid. The latest information was being made available on a special website set up by the County Councils at [www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk](http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk)

Another website providing advice on how to improve connectivity, develop community based solutions to broadband and with a useful glossary of terms had been put together by Devon Renaissance and could be accessed at [www.ruraldevon.org/community-broadband](http://www.ruraldevon.org/community-broadband)

Members **AGREED** to:

1. Continue working with South Hams on a Joint Broadband Task & Finish Group.
2. Support the approach to the Strategies & Resources Committee for £20,000 towards the successful bid for BDUK funding.
3. Obtain further details of the EU South West Competitiveness Programme.

**\*OSC 5 COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE**

The Community Delivery Manager presented a report (page 16 to the agenda) which provided Members with information on those key indicators where performance was 10% or more below target at 31 March 2011.

There were four indicators that fell into this category. They were all financial and as a result of the prevailing difficult economic conditions:

- Car Parking - income was under budget by £94,000 as forecasted in the Budget Monitoring reports. Although income picked up at the start of the third quarter, this trend was reversed due to adverse weather conditions in December. Car parking income targets in 2011/12 had been reduced by £50,000 to enable the budget to more accurately reflect the actual position.
- Land Charges - whilst income was down against the budget profile, expenditure was also below budget resulting in a balanced position.
- Building Control - the drop in income was primarily due to a downturn in the economy.
- Investments - income continued to remain low due to interest rates but the Council continued to explore other avenues for investment to maximise income.

As the national indicator set had been removed, a Single Data Set had been introduced which was a single transparent list of every piece of data that central government required from Councils. This was to ensure that the authority was collecting and reporting on key data. Some of this data was previously used to populate national indicators. Performance indicators which were of use to the Council would continue to be collected and reported on until new measures were introduced by the Council. A project would be incorporated in the Council's new Transformation Programme to look at performance measures which were relevant and important to the local community. Members would be invited to be involved in this work as the project progressed.

**\*OSC 6 POST OFFICE – PILOTS ON NEW OPERATING MODELS**

A letter from Post Office Limited was attached to the agenda (page 22) which outlined proposals to set up a pilot programme in certain parts of the country (including Devon). This would involve two new operating models for:

- Main Post Offices – modernising larger branches to include a high degree of automation and self service options with longer opening hours
- Local branches – simpler model that was situated on a retail counter with longer opening hours

This work was intended to build on the Government's policy paper 'Securing the Post Office Network in the Digital Age'. Further information on which Post Offices would be selected for the pilots would be sent to the Council in the autumn.

**\*OSC 7 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATIVE POWERS (RIPA)**

As a standing item on the agenda, Members noted that there had been no requests to use the powers under RIPA during the last quarter.

**\*OSC 8 HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

Previously, the Council had been able to appoint a Member to the Devon County Health & Adult Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee. However, notification had recently been received that the County Council had established a replacement Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee which would not include directly co-opted representatives from district councils as at present. Assurances had been given that local councils in areas affected by proposals from NHS or other providers in health areas would be given the opportunity to contribute with views being taken into account in any subsequent recommendations. There might also be opportunities, over time, for partners to be involved in issues locally.

Members **AGREED** that:

1. A response be sent to Devon County Council expressing the Committee's sadness that the Council is no longer to have a representative on the Health Scrutiny Committee but would appreciate the offer to be kept informed and to be consulted on any health issues which affect the West Devon area.
2. A West Devon County Councillor (preferably one sitting on the newly constituted Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee) be asked to keep the Committee informed of issues discussed at meetings.

(The Meeting Closed at 3.50pm)