

## MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON

22 October 2008

7.30pm-7.47pm

### PRESENT

### COUNCILLORS

Linda Pailing (Chairman)

Nick Churchill  
Nick Macy

Tony Durcan

Mark Gough  
Patrick McClarnon

### APOLOGIES

Mike Garnet

Joshua Jolles

Edna Stevens

### 22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

### 23. WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

None.

### 24. SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATES

The Committee received a progress report on the five reviews which this Committee had included in its 2008/09 Work Plan ie: Estate Parking; Policing in Harlow; Community Engagement; Concessionary Travel and Complaints Procedure.

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) the progress/update of each of the current scrutiny reviews, as set out in appendices 1-5 of the report, be noted;
- (b) the times of the various review meetings be included in the Council Diary.

### 25. SCRUTINY –THE NEW LEGISLATION

The Committee received a report outlining the new legislation which extended the role of the Council's scrutiny function to cover crime and

disorder matters and issues raised by constituents via their Ward Councillors. Issues raised in this way would each be categorised as a Councillor Call for Action (CCA).

Government guidance and regulations on this legislation were awaited, but it was likely to impact on the current finance and resources available for the scrutiny function. Members were concerned that adequate resources should be included in the budget and that a report should be submitted to Policy & Resources Committee to highlight this issue for the 2009/10 budget setting process.

Members preferred to delegate authority, rather than convene a working party, to establish what resources would be required to support the scrutiny function. They agreed the approach to this would be as set out in the Terms of Reference for the proposed Working Party.

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) the report be noted;
- (b) authority be delegated to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Committee, to establish what resources are required to support the scrutiny function in the light of the new legislation and to circulate their findings to members of this Committee for comment;
- (c) a special meeting of this Committee be provisionally booked for 11 November 2008, to approve the report (arising from the above delegation) which would be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee on 27 November 2008.

26. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

27. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE