

23 November 2010

**NOTE: THIS SUMMARY IS NOT THE FORMAL MINUTES OF THE
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE. IT IS INTENDED TO
GIVE EARLY NOTICE OF THE DECISIONS TAKEN.**

**IF YOU REQUIRE FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PROCEEDINGS AT THE
MEETING PLEASE CONTACT EMMA MILLWARD ON [01926] 456114.**

1. Emergency Procedure

The Emergency procedure for the Town Hall was announced.

***2. Substitutes**

Councillor Mrs McFarland substituted for Councillor Wilkinson

***3. Declarations of Interest**

These would be detailed in the minutes.

***4. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2010 were agreed.

***5. Comments from the Executive**

The report was noted.

***6. Forward Plan – The Executive Work Plan.**

The report was noted;

***7. Review of the Work Programme**

RESOLVED that:

- 1)** the report was noted;
- 2)** the Task and Finish Group report for Discretionary Travel Scheme be submitted to the Committee in December;
- 3)** Councillor Wilkinson's verbal feedback report be deferred until the Committee's meeting in January;
- 4)** a report outlining the Benefit Appeals Process be brought to the Committee's meeting in February; and
- 5)** an update report from Housing Services regarding their measures be brought to the Committees meeting in March.

*8. **Housing Strategy**

RESOLVED that the report was noted.

*9. **Maintenance of Trees progress report.**

This item was deferred.

*10. **Executive Agenda (Non-Confidential Items and Reports) – Wednesday 29 September 2010**

Item 4 – Council Tax Discounts

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 6 – Called in Item – Free Swimming

This item was withdrawn.

Item 7 – WDC Play Areas

The Committee felt that accessibility was a key part in providing play areas to residents within the District. They also asked for young people to be continually consulted about their play area and ways to improve them and ensure they contained play equipment they wanted and used. The Committee want the Executive to consider recommendation 2.4 in the report, which outlines the possibility of transferring these areas to groups or agencies.

Item 9 – Review of Locality Working

The Committee had concerns that the Community Forum meetings took up a lot of officer time, including the output after the meetings. They felt that the meetings were too structured and formal with the grant process dominating the meetings and that these should be changed to include more items put forward by the community. The Committee agreed that the people attending the Community Forum meetings were not a representative part of the community and that smaller groups spread across an area may attract more people and then these could feed back to the main Forum.

Item 11 – Audit Commission report on Housing Services

The Committee concluded that they had confidence in the new Head of Service for Housing and Property Services and that the draft improvement plan was the right thing to do next. They felt that there were lessons that could be learnt from the problems that had been missed previously and that ways would be found to ensure these sort of problems were not missed at such a magnitude in the future. The Committee asked that a sub-committee be established with all Councillors and tenants, including those from sheltered housing, who were aware of the system. This would enable Councillors to learn of the tenants issues and to both look at the improvement plan.

(The meeting finished at 8.15pm)