

HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Scrutiny Board held on 21 May 2013

Present

Councillor Shimbart (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs Blackett, Bolton, Cousins, Edwards, Farrow, Galloway, Hart, Heard, Hilton, Keast, Kennedy, Lenaghan, Ponsonby, Mrs Smallcorn, Smith J, Tarrant, Turner and Wilson

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Gibb-Gray, J Hunt, V Pierce Jones, D Smith and K Smith.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Board held on 26 February 2013 be approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

4. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests from any of the members present.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed new members to the Board and explained that the strength of the Scrutiny Panels should ensure significant work is undertaken in the forthcoming year.

6. Development Management Improvement Plan

The Board received a report from the Planning and Built Environment Panel, setting out findings and recommendations in relation to its Development Management Service Improvement Plan scrutiny review. In undertaking this review, the Panel had sought to establish to what degree, and in what areas, the Council's Development Management Service appeared to be performing less well than other local planning authorities. The Panel had worked with Managers, as part of a wider engagement with the Development Management Team and customers, to contribute to the development of a Service Improvement Plan.

The Service Manager (Planning and Development) provided the Board with a presentation on the Improvement Plan detailing the progress of the Plan, the works and income involved, potential challenges, opportunities and also the future priorities for the service.

The Service Manager (Planning and Development) and the Business Development and Support Team Leader were then invited to join the meeting and answered members' questions in connection with the Improvement Plan and the allocation of resources to enable delivery of its objectives.

The Board sought clarification with regard to why there had been a significant drop in enforcement cases and the officers confirmed that this had been achieved through pro-active management of unresolved cases and the introduction of a more efficient decision making process. The Board suggested that communication of enforcement issues to Councillors be further strengthened with the introduction of a regular update to Development Management Committee members.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Development Management Service Improvement Plan be endorsed by the Scrutiny Board; and
- (2) the Planning and Built Environment Panel monitors the implementation of the Plan and the delivery of its objectives and reports back to the Board on progress in 6 months' time.

7. Work Programme

The Board was given an opportunity to review progress with regard to the work undertaken by the scrutiny/policy review panels since the last meeting and to identify any additional matters for inclusion in the Board's work programme for 2013/14.

The Board was then invited to agree the membership of the five scrutiny panels.

RESOLVED that

- (1) The Scrutiny Panel membership as set out below be approved;

- (a) Environment and Neighbourhood Quality Panel:

Councillor David Keast – Scrutiny Lead
Councillor Colin Mackey
Councillor Ralph Cousins
Councillor Olwyn Kennedy
Councillor Hilary Farrow
Councillor David Smith (Co-opted Member)

- (b) Governance and Logistics Panel:

Councillor Leah Turner – Scrutiny Lead
Councillor Ray Bastin
Councillor Rory Heard
Councillor Marjorie Smallcorn

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Councillor Andy Lenaghan

(c) Marketing and Development Panel:

Councillor John Smith – Scrutiny Lead
Councillor Faith Ponsonby
Councillor Victor Pierce Jones
Councillor Terry Hart
Councillor Richard Galloway
Councillor George Smith

(d) Planning and Built Environment Panel;

Councillor Gwen Blackett – Scrutiny Lead
Councillor Brendan Gibb-Gray
Councillor Cyril Hilton
Councillor Gerald Shimbart
Councillor Ray Bolton

(e) Economy and Community Panel:

Councillor Caren Tarrant – Scrutiny Lead
Councillor Ken Smith
Councillor John Hunt
Councillor Frida Edwards
Councillor Michael Wilson (Co-opted Member)

(2) The Governance and Logistics Panel be requested to undertake a review of the current committee appointment system; and

(3) The five Scrutiny Panels each review their individual service cluster performance healthcheck reports on a quarterly basis.

The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and concluded at 6.50 pm