

## **KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held  
in the Council Chamber, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes on  
Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2008 at 2:15pm.

#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor C P G Hoddinott - Chairman

Councillor Mrs P Dow  
Councillor A Lake  
Councillor Mrs L Mayes  
Councillor R T Parsons

Councillor Mrs N G Rawlins  
Councillor J Seed  
Councillor Mrs P M Winchcombe  
Councillor Mrs S Zweck

#### **Also present:**

Councillor Mrs J M Giles

### **PART 1**

#### **Items considered whilst the public were entitled to be present**

#### **12. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **13. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **14. CORPORATE FINANCE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were received and noted.

#### **15. PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT – YEAR END OUTCOMES**

The Board considered a paper by the Corporate Services Manager to which was appended the year end outcome performance indicators for 2007/08. These had already been published to meet the statutory deadline of 30 June.

Members were informed that the Council was in the top quartile for 60% of the indicators and above the national average for 80%. The Board considered this to be a very satisfactory outcome.

The Corporate Services Manager reported that 2007/08 was the last year for which the current national Best Value Performance Indicators were to be collected. From 2008/09, there would be a new set.

## **RESOLVED**

### **THAT**

- 1) The year end outcome performance indicators for 2007/08 be forwarded to the Council for adoption.
- 2) The Corporate Services Manager be asked to add to the table of indicators a column showing the previous year's figures, so that the trends between the two years can be ascertained.
- 3) In compiling a set of performance indicators for 2008/09, the Corporate Services Manager be asked to include local indicators for car parking and affordable housing.

## **16. JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATES**

Those members of the Committee who represented the Council on the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board and the subsidiary Task Groups made verbal reports.

### Transition Board

Councillor Seed said that this Board at its last meeting had received reports from four of the Task Groups. His view was that, with one exception, good progress was being made towards harmonisation. The exception was leisure, where the transition Board had sent the Group's report back for further consideration. He was confident more progress would be made following Mark Smith's recent appointment as a Service Director with the unitary Council.

More generally, the Transition Board remained sceptical at the overall savings being aimed for, but was reserving comment until it had seen the draft 2008/09 budget for the new Council.

### Waste Task Group

Councillor Seed said that this Group, of which he was Chairman, was looking at transformation, as well as transition. The Transition Board was keen that waste collection should be bi-weekly across the whole area of the new Council but was waiting to see the draft budget before expressing a firm view.

### Development Control Task Group

Councillor Parsons reported that much of the discussion within this Group concerned the regulatory structure for the new Council, i.e. a Strategic Planning Board at Council-wide level and four local boards at "hub"-level. The Transition Board had decided that the former would not be able to

call-in matters from the latter, though the hubs would be able to refer matters upwards to the Strategic Board. Other areas of discussion had been ICT systems and harmonisation of schemes of delegation to officers.

#### Housing Task Group

Councillor Mrs Giles reported on meetings of this Task Group of which she was chairman. She said the Group, which had a very wide remit, had suffered from a lack of officer support. The Group was awaiting further performance information and would then decide in which direction it wished to proceed.

#### Customer Access Task Group

Councillor Lake, who chaired this Group, spoke enthusiastically about customer services, planning for which was well advanced and which would be in place by the vesting day for the new Council. The Group's next task was to prepare a plan for communicating to the public details of the new customer access arrangements.

#### Community Area Boards Task Group

Councillor Mrs Winchcombe said that discussion within this Group had focussed on the composition of the 20 community area boards, funding, staffing, and links to service delivery.

Mindful that community involvement was one of the major planks in the County Council's unitary proposals, the Committee recognised that local representation on the community boards, voting rights, and the frequency of meetings were crucial to the success of the boards.

### **RESOLVED**

**THAT** the members be thanked for their reports and be asked to take back to the respective groups the comments and queries raised during the Committee's consideration of this item of business.

### **PART 2**

**Items considered whilst the meeting was closed to the public**

**None**

Chairman  
7<sup>th</sup> October 2008