

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 – COMMUNITY AND HOUSING held at
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on
16 MARCH 2005**

Present:- Councillor A R Row – Chairman.
Councillors M A Gayler, D W Gregory, R T Harris, S C Jones,
A J Ketteridge, E D Tealby-Watson, and A M Wattebot.

Officers in attendance:- G Bradley, C Roberts and T Turner.

Immediately before the meeting Mr D Baron the Chairman of the Uttlesford Primary Care Trust and Mrs Melanie Walker the Trust's Chief Executive had given a presentation about:-

- (i) a gap in the breast cancer screening services due to recruitment difficulties,
- (ii) the Trust's financial prospects which without swift action would be of a large and accumulating deficit, and
- (iii) the Trust's current star ratings.

Members asked the Trust to present information about prostate cancer services at the next meeting.

S1.36 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Corke and P A Wilcock.

The Chairman of the Committee introduced and welcomed Tracy Turner, the Executive Manager Strategy and Performance.

S1.37 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2005 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

S1.38 BUSINESS ARISING

(i) Minute S1.31 – Leisure Centres

A report by the Leisure Manager containing a Leisure Centres Surveys Action Plan Update had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Leisure Manager added that questions had been received from Councillor F E Silver and these were dealt with as follows:-

Concession Card Scheme The Leisure Manager gave details of the Scheme negotiated with the District Council. It was noted that little advertising had been done, but the Leisure Manager informed Members that a new Centre Guide was being developed which would be used to advertise products to non-members.

Swim Times

The Leisure Officer explained that a more professional swim times programme would be produced next time. Councillor E Tealby-Watson asked that it be an annual programme showing the times for all the schools.

Staff at Leisure Centres

The Leisure Manager updated the meeting on changes in staff at Dunmow Leisure Centre.

S1.39

UTTLESFORD LIFE

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Communications and PR Officer was unable to attend the meeting due to a back injury.

Members discussed the publication and distribution of "Uttlesford Life". There were concerns about the distribution, printing and costs. It was suggested by a Member that a magazine could be delivered with the council tax demand but another Member thought this inappropriate.

Members had differing views also on the usefulness of "The Council Page".

The Executive Manager Strategy and Performance reminded the meeting that the distribution of the magazine would be covered by Best Value assessment in the current year.

RESOLVED that the Executive Manager Strategy and Performance submit a further report on "Uttlesford Life" to Scrutiny Committee no 1 and to the Resources Committee.

S1.40

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – THIRD QUARTER'S STATISTICS

The Executive Manager Strategy and Performance presented the third quarter's performance management statistics and explained that she anticipated changing the format in the future and reviewing the appropriateness of the business considered by scrutiny and by other committees.

A member felt it was difficult to distinguish between cumulative and quarterly figures and another member felt that more benchmark comparison was necessary to iron out differences in the difficulty of targets.

Comments were made about the lack of data for street cleaning and the fact that the ratio of management to staff cost was climbing steadily and would increase more.

In the context of this item the Executive Manager Strategy and Performance circulated a list of subjects which might be considered for inclusion in the Committee's next Work Programme, and asked for Members' reactions.

A Member suggested including the ever rising levels of staff turnover, and another was concerned whether the Committee was achieving its existing plan. A third expressed concern about the CCTV item on the list. Members had differing views on the value of different constitutional structures for the Council.

RESOLVED that the report and Work Programme list from the Executive Manager be noted and that Members refer their suggestions to her for inclusion in a report to the next meeting of the Committee.

S1.41 **REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee considered the report of the Committee Officer with attached annual reports from Members on their experience of outside bodies upon which they acted as Council representative.

Councillor E Tealby-Watson informed the meeting that she had an annual report to add to the collection.

RESOLVED that the Annual reports be forwarded to the Council for consideration.

S1.41 **COMMUNITY AND LEISURE COMMITTEE – 1 MARCH 2005**

(i) Multi-cultural Festival

In answer to a question the Leisure Manager confirmed that following research it had been established that Sunday afternoon was the best time of the week for such a festival.

The meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.