

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 1 – COMMUNITY AND HOUSING held at  
COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.30 pm on 9  
NOVEMBER 2005**

Present:- Councillors J F Cheetham, A J Ketteridge and G Sell.

Officers in attendance: - W Cockerell, J Roos, C Roberts, and T Turner

**S1.52 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B M Hughes, E Tealby-Watson, A R Row, and P A Wilcock.

**S1.53 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2005 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

**S1.54 BUSINESS ARISING**

**(i) Minute S.44 Uttlesford Life**

The Executive Manager (Strategy & Performance) gave a detailed account of the new measures put into place following review to ensure improved distribution of Uttlesford Life. She added that feedback from Members would be very welcome and new initiatives in the magazine were likely to provoke more feedback from residents.

Members were pleased that there was now increased contribution from councillors which they felt was a valuable improvement.

**S1.55 SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Energy Efficiency Surveyor made a further presentation on Climate Change, explaining the implications of the Nottingham Declaration and the need to formalise energy decisions and policies, and to make use of all opportunities to change energy use. He agreed to send Members details of a relevant event soon to be held at Chelmsford. It was noted that Uttlesford was the fourth highest in the country for production of CO2 emissions. It also had highest car ownership numbers.

Members commented that guidance notes would be useful for Members making Planning decisions so that they could have appropriate influence on the energy efficiency of developments.

**S1.56 USE OF WASTE AS FERTILIZER ON FARMLAND**

The Principal Environmental Health Officer reported that he had written to the relevant sections of the Environment Agency asking for a review of the way the Agency exercises its control over the disposal of waste on agricultural

land, and had not yet received complete replies, though the general aim seemed to be to avoid causing overuse and it appeared that new regulations were in the offing.

Members wished to be updated on future developments.

## S1.57 **IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CONSTITUTION**

The Executive Manager (Strategy & Performance) presented a report advising the Committee of the need to report back to the Full Council at its meeting on 13 December on implementation of the new Constitution. She explained that the Committee had the opportunity to re-think matters such as the meeting times and formality or otherwise of the Scrutiny meetings.

Members felt that the process of scrutiny worked best with an executive and that existing work commitments would be difficult to change.

In answer to a question the Executive Manager (Strategy & Performance) suggested that the Area Panels would most probably carry out their own scrutiny function.

RESOLVED that

1 Scrutiny investigations into Climate Change and Fees and Charges transfer to the Review and Petitions Committee.

2 the newly created Review and Petitions Committee allocate Members to the investigations where committee membership changes have occurred.

3 the Review and Petitions Committee consider new ways of working to reinforce and support the scrutiny function.

The meeting ended at 8.45pm