



Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2010/11

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Chairman's Foreword

This past year has been another successful year for Overview and Scrutiny. Both Scrutiny A and B have been busy conducting important post and pre decision scrutiny reviews that have ensured services are running effectively and efficiently. Members have also actively, when appropriate, held the Executive Board to account. Particular successes this year include:

- Merged Services/Compass Point Business Services Task and Finish Group
- A review of the project background in relation to the Meridian Leisure Centre
- A review of the delivery of Disabled Facility Grants (DFGs) with specific emphasis on the provision of funds.

With the Country's continuing difficult economic circumstances, it is more than ever before, important that scrutiny provides a challenge on behalf of our residents.

My sincere thanks goes to all Councillors who have contributed to all areas of scrutiny work during the last year.

Thanks must also go to Officers at all levels who continue to support the Overview and Scrutiny process with their respective research and preparation of papers.



***Councillor Mrs. F.M. Martin,
Chairman of the Overview Committee***

June 2011

Introduction

All East Lindsey Councillors are committed to improving the well-being of the people of East Lindsey. Eight of these Councillors are Members of the Executive Board. The other 52 Councillors are non-executive Councillors. They investigate important issues that affect the people of East Lindsey through the Overview and Scrutiny process. Issues under investigation can be Council services or wider matters affecting the community as a whole. Whatever the issue,

Councillors make sure they speak to the people that matter, the people providing the services and most importantly the people of East Lindsey, the people who use our services.

This annual report aims to bring you up-to-date with the major achievements for Overview and Scrutiny over the last year.



The Overview Committee

The Overview Committee has responsibility for managing the overall scrutiny process within the Council and keeps services under constant review.

During 2010/11, the Overview Committee has kept Performance Management under regular review to ensure the Council continues to improve. Members have also considered a report regarding Service and Financial Planning which is reviewed on an annual basis and helps to ensure that the Council has a sound and robust approach to the budget setting for the coming year. Members of the Overview Committee were also influential in shaping the Council's new Corporate Strategy, something that Members ensured was fit for purpose.

The Overview Committee has also consistently monitored the Executive Board Forward Plan to keep abreast of any issues arising that held the potential for pre-decision scrutiny. As a scrutiny function, this is something we wish to do more of during 2011/12.

Members were also presented with the Overview and Scrutiny recommendation Tracker at each Meeting allowing the Committee to monitor recommendations that have been forwarded to the Executive Board for their approval. Once a report has been accepted by the Overview Committee, the relevant Portfolio Holder has been invited to submit an action plan detailing the timescales of how the recommendation would be taken forward. The Portfolio Holder would then be held to account if this action plan was not adhered to. This process ensures that all of scrutiny's hard work is not lost.

Scrutiny A



The Scrutiny A Committee has had another successful year conducting reviews on a wide variety of topics, which included a review of the Cessation of Green Waste, a Review of the Meridian Leisure Centre and also a review to instigate a Volunteering Policy for the Council to support volunteering within the work and community environment. These reviews have allowed Members to build up a good understanding as to how the respective services function and were then able to make suitable recommendations to enable the service to become more efficient and potentially deliver the Council future savings. The recommendations from these reviews were endorsed by the Overview Committee who will monitor them to ensure that they are acted upon by the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Aside from conducting scrutiny reviews, the Scrutiny A Committee also holds responsibility to convene as the Council's Crime and Disorder Panel and is required to meet at least once every 12 months. Over the course of 2010/11, the Scrutiny A Committee has convened three times as the Crime and Disorder Panel to discuss issues relating to Anti Social Behaviour and CCTV. Members have also ensured, by questioning relevant officers that the Community Safety Partnership is working effectively.

The Scrutiny A Committee will start with a fresh work programme in 2011/12, where Members at the Committees first Meeting will discuss potential topics that they wish to review over the coming year.

Scrutiny B

The Scrutiny B Committee has once again this year played a vital role in supporting the scrutiny process at East Lindsey.

The Committee was tasked with undertaking a complex review regarding the Council's delivery of Disabled Facility Grants (DFGs). As a result of the review Members recommended that the Council lobbied Central Government to ask for more financial support for the delivery of the statutory service. The Scrutiny B Committee will, throughout 2011/12, continue to monitor the delivery of DFGs within the Council.

The Scrutiny B Committee also undertook a review that looked at the Working Relationships with Town and Parish Council's and how the Council could better communicate with rural parishes. The outcomes of the review will act as background evidence to a more specific scrutiny review that focuses on methods of engagement in 2011/12.

Members of the Scrutiny B Committee also undertook a review that looked at the first year operation of the Town Centre Initiative. Committee Meetings were held in Skegness, Louth and Mablethorpe to allow residents from the respective areas to attend and submit their thoughts about how the Town Centre Initiative was working in their area. The recommendations for this review will be presented to the Overview Committee early in the new Council year.

Just as the Scrutiny A Committee, Scrutiny B will start with a fresh work programme in 2011/12, where Members will be provided with an opportunity at the Committees first Meeting to submit suggestions for potential scrutiny.



Task and Finish Groups



The Overview Committee re-convened the Merged Services Task and Finish Group and tasked it with concentrating on key issues that arose during the implementation of the Merged Services Organisation, Compass Point Business Services (CPBS). The group provided regular reports to the Overview Committee, Executive Board and Council and the notes of the Meetings were published on the Council's Intranet. The meetings of the group were open to all Members to provide information to make informed decisions.

The Scrutiny B Committee was responsible for establishing a Task and Finish Group with a view to compiling a robust business case to lobby central government and other relevant organisations to acquire more funding to support the mandatory delivery of Disabled Facility Grants (DFGs) within East Lindsey. The Task and Finish Group met on three occasions and had considered suitable organisations to lobby. Following consultation with the Task and Finish Group, the Team Leader, Private Sector Housing compiled a report that illustrated the groups thoughts on what organisations and individuals should be lobbied. The report was subsequently submitted to the Executive Board, where the recommendation to lobby organisations and individuals was accepted.

Further Information

If you require any further information about Scrutiny in East Lindsey, would like to suggest a topic for review, or think you may be able to provide some invaluable knowledge to our Committees please do not hesitate to contact:

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