Minutes of: SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 19 July 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Sandiford (Chair)
Councillors L Barnes, A Barnes, Crawforth, Kenyon,
Lamb, Milling, Morris, Oakes, C Pilling, Stansfield
and Thorne.

Irene Divine (Co-opted Member)
Keith Pilkington, (Co-opted Member)

IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Lockwood, Chief Executive
Stuart Sugarman, Director of Business
Fiona Meechan, Director of Customers and Communities
Jason Foster, Operations Manager
Mike Riley, Communities Manager
Janice Crawford, Finance Manager
David Heyes, Accounts Manager
Liz Sandiford, Head of People and Policy
Pat Couch, Scrutiny Support Officer

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Robertson and J Pilling
Councillor Swain, Challinor, Gledhill and P Steen
(Cabinet Members)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H Steen.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Kenyon declared a personal interest as a member of the licensed taxi trade.

3. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items for discussion.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

5. CHAIR’S UPDATE

The Chair welcomed everyone to the special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny, indicating that scrutiny had an important role to play and that Members need to discuss the budget, in particular budget savings as
they need to be aware that savings had to be made across the Council due to the current economic climate.

Any recommendations made at the meeting, together with the meeting on 3 August, would be incorporated into the final consultation report being presented to Cabinet.

The Chair informed the Committee that Cabinet Members had been invited to observe the meeting and if required, answer any issues raised by Members.

6. PRESENTATION

The Director of Customers and Communities gave a presentation on the purpose of the meeting, which was to investigate and discuss where and how savings could be made across the Council’s priority areas of:

- Keeping our Borough Clean, Green and Safe
- Encouraging Healthy and Respectable Communities

Members were also asked to discuss possible impacts of any savings and provide feedback on the findings.

The Director of Customers and Communities informed Members of the savings the Council had already made in relation to both the above priorities and clarified the funding that had already been cut by Central Government and the future cuts we expected to have to make.

Members were then asked to break into groups to focus on the following:

a) Services which are considered to be the most important; and
b) Services which could be delivered differently, less, or not at all, to save money

Each group fed back their findings and these would be included in the full consultation process.

The Chief Executive informed Members that the Council would be launching a website to seek the views/ideas from the public. Area Forums would also be involved in the consultation process.

There were other suggestions from Members on how to involve the public i.e. questionnaires being available in other public buildings i.e. libraries, one stop shop.

A report would be presented to Cabinet in September highlighting the process of the consultation and ideas on how savings could be made.
The Chair thanked the Chief Executive and Officers for providing the support to Members.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.35pm

Signed ........................... (Chair)

Date.............................