

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

EAST KENT (JOINT SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 22 December 2008
9.00am in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Folkestone**

Present:

Councillor	R	Bayford	(Thanet DC)
Councillor	T	Birkett	(Kent CC)
Councillor	A	Clifton-Holt	(Shepway DC)
Councillor	M	Conolly	(Dover DC)
Councillor	A	Friend – substitute for Cllr D Lloyds-Jones	(Dover DC)
Councillor	K	Mills	(Dover DC)
Councillor	T	Prater	(Shepway DC)
Councillor	I	Thomas	(Canterbury CC)
Councillor	M	Vye	(Kent CC)

Officers:

Keith Cane	Shepway DC
Wendy Head	Shepway DC
Jeremy Chambers	Shepway DC
Nicholas Hughes	Canterbury CC
Rebecca Brough	Dover DC
Shirlee Chatterton	Shepway DC

UNRESTRICTED ITEMS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Item. 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Lloyd-Jones (DDC) and M Fisher (CCC).

2. DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

(Item. 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

(Item. 3)

The Chairman reported that Councillor A Friend (DDC) was present as substitute for Councillor D Lloyds-Jones.

4. MINUTES

(Item. 4)

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2008 were submitted, approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. MINUTES OF THE WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING SUB-GROUP
(Item. 5)

The minutes from the East Kent (Joint Scrutiny) Committee Waste Management Working Sub-Group meeting that was held on 3 December 2008 were noted by the Committee.

6. MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE EAST KENT (JOINT ARRANGEMENTS) COMMITTEE
(Item. 6)

There were no items referred from the last meeting of the committee.

7. ALLOCATION OF £50,000 FUNDING TO EAST KENT CLUSTER BY KENT AND MEDWAY IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP
(Item. 7)

The Committee considered the report which was presented by the Corporate Director, Organisational Performance, Shepway District Council.

The Committee were concerned that there was no ceiling on the amount of spending for one single item by Chief Executives.

RESOLVED:

- a) To endorse the recommendations set out in the report as agreed by the East Kent (Joint Arrangements) Committee.

8. JOINT HOUSING LANDLORD SERVICES
(Item. 8)

The Committee considered the report which was presented by the Corporate Director, Planning and Communities, Shepway District Council.

The Committee requested that the minutes from the overview and scrutiny committees from each local authority in the partnership that has reviewed this item and notes of tenant group meetings, be circulated for the next meeting. The Committee recognised and endorsed the need for robust tenant involvement and the critical role of independent tenant advisors.

In response to a question the Corporate Director said that consultation thus far had highlighted local service delivery and local decision making regarding service design as key considerations. He said that each of the local Authorities would retain ownership of their stock and would therefore need to maintain individual Housing Revenue Accounts. This would mean the individual Authorities would retain responsibility for key decisions such as HRA business planning, including stock investment programmes, rent setting etc. and that the role of the Shared Service Vehicle (SSV) would be to deliver services within these locally determined frameworks. The Corporate Director also referred to the role that Area Boards

could potentially play in monitoring local service delivery and as a conduit for tenant and elected member input regarding local priorities.

The Committee discussed whether Housing Cabinet members should be members of the SSV board and concluded that there were arguments for and against this. The Committee therefore asked that this issue be considered as part of the consideration of governance options.

RESOLVED:

- a) To endorse the recommendations as agreed by the East Kent (Joint Arrangements) Committee.
- b) That information be brought to the next Committee meeting on outcomes achieved by other Local Authorities that have set up Arms Length Management Organisations and/or Shared Service Vehicles.
- c) That some councillors, officers, tenants, and independent tenant advisors who have been involved with councils that have set up Arms Length Management Organisations and/or Shared Service Vehicles be invited to attend the next meeting to share their views with the Committee.
- d) That 3 overview and scrutiny members from Ashford Borough Council be invited to join the East Kent (Joint Scrutiny) Committee as co-opted non-voting members under the same principles as their participation in the debate at the East Kent (Joint Arrangements) Committee.

9. SHARED HR/PAYROLL BUSINESS CASE
(Item. 9)

The Committee considered the report which was presented by the Corporate Director, Organisational Performance, Shepway District Council.

RESOLVED:

- a) To endorse the recommendations set out in the report as agreed by the East Kent (Joint Arrangements) Committee.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH FALLS UNDER THE EXEMPT PROVISIONS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 OR THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 OR BOTH
(Item. 10)

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be at 9am on Tuesday 31 March 2009 at the Civic Centre, Folkestone.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11.00 am