MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE Overview and Scrutiny Committee HELD
AT THE Council Offices, Station Road, Wigston ON 26 September 2012

Present: - Chairman
- Vice Chairman

Councillors: D A Gamble, M H Charlesworth, R F Eaton,
Mrs H E Loydall and P Swift

Also in Attendance: 

Officers in attendance: Anne Court, Anita Pathak-Mould, Nick Ainsworth-Smith and Adrian Thorpe

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs L Eaton and Mrs L Kaufman

7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

9. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 July 2012 be taken as read, confirmed and signed

10. REVIEW OF SHARED SERVICES

The Committee noted the report of the Director of Services, which provided an update on shared services and collaborative working arrangements that the Council is engaged in.

It was noted that the Council works with a diverse range of partners in order to most effectively deliver services including ICT, Economic Regeneration, Payroll and Internal Audit.

It was suggest that consideration could be given to outsourcing services to the private sector in order to deliver better value for money.

Members expressed concerns about the imminent departure of the Section 151 Officer. The Director of Services informed the Committee that several options were being reviewed for the provision of a Section 151 Officer, which could include sharing with another Local Authority, sourcing form the private sector or an alternative option. It was agreed that an update would be provided to the Committee at a future date.

RESOLVED that

A report is brought to the meeting in November, which provides an update to members on the recruitment of a Section 151 Officer

11. SCRUTINY OF KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
The Committee noted the report of the Director of Services, which provided an update on performance indicators for quarter of the 2012/13 financial year.

The report, as set out in report pages 5 to 11, should be read together with these minutes as a composite document.

The Committee expressed concerns about failing to meet targets for National Indicator 142 (Percentage of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living (in sheltered housing schemes) and BVPI 212 (Average time to re-let local authority housing).

The Head of Communities stated that the results set out in the report are comprised of actual results, without making adjustments purely for the benefit of improving the target in its own right.

It was stated that the Council is no longer obliged to provide information in the format required by National Indicators in the past.

It was suggested that there is an opportunity to review the relevancy of targets as they are currently calculated, to make them more accurate and specific to the Borough.

The Committee agreed that it was essential that targets give an accurate reflection of reality.

Members noted that National Indicator BVPI 8 (Percentage of invoices for commercial goods and services which were paid by the authority within 30 days of such invoices being received by the authority) was 95.4% for Quarter 1, which is below the target of 98%. It was requested that a reason for this is provided to the Committee.

The Head of Operations updated the Committee on plans to improve results for National Indicator 192 (Household waste recycled and composted), by including the collection of cooking oil for recycling.

RESOLVED that

1. Heads of Service give consideration to the relevancy of the targets in their current format.

2. A report is brought to a future meeting with the findings which sets out any proposed changes to the reporting of targets.

The meeting closed at Time Not Specified.