

**MINUTE EXTRACT (DRAFT)**

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

11 AUGUST 2016 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman  
Mrs R Camamile – Vice-Chairman

Mr DC Bill MBE, Mr SL Bray, Mr WJ Crooks, Mrs J Richards, Mr BE Sutton,  
Mr P Wallace, Mr R Ward, Mr HG Williams and Ms BM Witherford (for Mr KWP Lynch)

Also in attendance: Councillor J Kirby, Councillor C Ladkin, Councillor M Nickerson and  
Councillor SL Rooney

Officers in attendance: Steve Atkinson, Bill Cullen, Edwina Grant, Simon D Jones, Julie  
Kenny, Rebecca Owen and Nic Thomas

106 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Lynch with the substitution  
of Councillor Witherford authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.

108 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

111 HINCKLEY MARKETS PROCUREMENT

Following a decision by the Executive at its meeting on 29 June 2016 to undertake a  
formal procurement exercise in relation to the operation of Hinckley Markets, some  
members of the Scrutiny Commission had requested to review the report before the  
decision being implemented. At the invitation of the Chairman, a representative of the  
market traders was in attendance as a witness.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The importance of the market in drawing visitors to the town centre
- The ageing profile of market traders who may take the opportunity to retire should  
a private operator be procured
- Concern of traders about private management of the markets
- The motivation of private operators being financial rather than operating in the  
interests of the town and current traders
- The national decline of markets and success of Hinckley's in comparison
- The need to protect current stallholders being reflected in the tender  
documentation
- Previous experiences of the Council of outsourcing had proven generally that  
services were better delivered in-house
- The need to maintain a balance of traders, which is a policy unlikely to be  
maintained under private management
- The need to give proper consideration to the matter, as it appeared to be a  
rushed decision.

A member enquired about the reasons for the report and whether it was due to a loss of revenue or other problems. In response, the Executive member explained that there were weaknesses, for example the Monday market and ageing traders, who may retire and their stalls may remain unfilled.

The following was requested by members:

- Information on which other authorities had outsourced their markets and what results this had produced
- To view the business case for considering a procurement exercise
- That the Scrutiny Commission sees the documents before the tender is advertised
- That the Scrutiny Commission has the opportunity to consider the outcome of the tender process prior to a decision by the Executive.

Councillor Bray wished it to be recorded that the Liberal Democrat group was opposed to any move to privatise the market and, seconded by Councillor Crooks, he moved that the Executive takes no further steps on the procurement of markets' management until the Scrutiny Commission has had the opportunity both to examine the tender specification and to review the business case for change. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was CARRIED and it was

RESOLVED – that the Executive be RECOMMENDED to take no further steps on the procurement of markets' management until the Scrutiny Commission has had the opportunity both to examine the tender specification and to review the business case for change.

Councillor Wallace wished it to be recorded that he voted against the motion.

(The Meeting closed at 9.05 pm)