

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
22 JANUARY 2008 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: MR. K.W.P. LYNCH - MAYOR  
MR. J.G. BANNISTER - DEPUTY MAYOR

Mrs. M. Aldridge, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. P.S. Bessant, Mr. D.C. Bill, Mr. C.W. Boothby, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mr. M.B. Cartwright, Mr. D.S. Cope, Mr. W.J. Crooks, Mr. D.M. Gould, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. P.A.S. Hall, Mr. D.W. Inman, Mr. C.G. Joyce, Mr. C. Ladkin, Mr. M.R. Lay, Mr. R. Mayne, Mr. T. McClure, Dr. J.R. Moore, Ms. W.A. Moore, Mr. K. Morrell, Mr. K. Nichols, Mr. L.J.P. O'Shea, Mr. A.J. Smith, Mr. B.E. Sutton, Mr. R. Ward and Mr. D.O. Wright.

Also in attendance: Messrs. R. Birch and M.D. Clarricoats, independent members of the Standards Committee.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S.J. Atkinson, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. P.F. Cash, Mr. G. Chilvers, Miss L. Horton, Mr. S. Kohli, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. T.M. Prowse and Mrs. J. Puffett.

428 PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Robert Stephen offered prayer.

Mr. Ladkin entered the meeting at 6.33 p.m.

429 PRESENTATION

The Mayor presented certificates to some of the Council's Sports Award Winners and congratulated all of the recipients who attended on their achievement.

430 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. S.L. Bray and J.G. Cort, Mrs. S. Francks and Mrs. J. Richards.

431 MINUTES (C55)

It was moved by Mr. Nichols, seconded by Mr. Wright and

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

432 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Mayor indicated that he had agreed to take as a matter of urgency report number C59, relating to the proposed closure of the HSBC Bank in Earl Shilton. The reason for the urgency was contained within the report, which provided feedback following consideration of this item at the last Council meeting.

433 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

434 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor announced that he and the Mayoress would be hosting a charity dinner at 'Sketchley Grange' on 22 February 2008. Invitations to Members would follow shortly.

435 POSITION STATEMENT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

In his presentation the Leader referred to the Council's initial submission for Corporate Performance Assessment (CPA) re-categorisation, consultation on a restatement of the Council's priorities for its Corporate Plan, the emerging Local Development Framework (LDF) and the deliberations of the cross-party Members' group on the budget/medium term financial strategy. In conclusion, the Leader indicated that this would be the final meeting attended by Peter Cash, Head of Culture and Development, who would shortly be retiring and paid tribute to Mr. Cash for his services to this Authority over the last 26 years. Tributes to Mr. Cash by the other group leaders then followed.

Members were fully supportive of the submission for CPA re-categorisation but expressed reservations with regard to elements of the LDF. In welcoming the Council's constructive comments the Leader referred to on-going discussions with the County Council regarding the LDF and queried whether ward Members representing the rural areas of the Borough might be involved in discussions on expansion in village areas. The Leader and the Chief Executive emphasised that it was the intention of this Council to have a balanced agenda of work and priorities, which would benefit people borough-wide.

436 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS MAY 2008/MAY 2009 (C56)

The Mayor, in presenting this, indicated that the reference to quarterly meetings of Standards Committee (line 6 under 'background to the report') should be deleted since the intention was that that Committee should meet on a more frequent basis.

It was then moved by the Mayor, seconded by Mr. Bill and

RESOLVED – the schedule of meetings attached to the report of the Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services be approved.

437 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT – SUBMISSION FOR RE-CATEGORISATION (C57)

Presented at the meeting was a copy of an amended draft submission produced since the agenda was circulated to Members. Council was requested to agree that this submission be forwarded to the Audit Commission for an upward re-categorisation of the Authority within the CPA categories.

In fully supporting this, which reflected the Council's continuing progress and achievements made by both the previous and the current administration, it was moved by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Wright and

RESOLVED –

- i) this Council supports and approves the initial submission (as now amended) to the Audit Commission for CPA re-categorisation; and
- ii) the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to deal with any final revisions to the submission.

438 VISIONING FOR THE FUTURE (C58)

Consideration was given to a draft set of 7 Corporate Plan Priorities and associated key corporate targets. This document had been widely circulated and responses received, together with Members' comments tonight, would be incorporated into a final set of priorities and targets which would be considered at the next meeting.

An extensive debate followed and the following issues were raised:-

- Quantifying of CO<sup>2</sup> levels
- Cross-party membership of the climate change working group
- Services for the elderly
- Delivery of services through the Local Strategic Partnership and other partners
- Corporate targets, borough-wide to encompass everyone's needs in all categories
- Support for vulnerable people
- The inclusion of affordable homes in the Corporate Plan
- Need for rented accommodation

The Chief Executive indicated that this was intended to be a means of providing clear direction for Members, managers, staff, partners and the public. The focus would be on high level priorities for everyone and with the same standards of service across the borough. The process would be ongoing and would build on the work of the previous administration, as well as the current one. The Council would not work alone, but seek to use its influence and in consultation with the public, partners and other stakeholders.

It was moved by Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Lay and

RESOLVED – whilst fully supportive of the 12 key corporate targets the Chief Executive, in the light of Members' comments and further responses to wider consultation, bring a further report on future priorities to the next Council meeting.

439 HSBC BANK PLC, EARL SHILTON BRANCH (C59)

Further to minute number 378 of 11 December 2007 presented to Members at the meeting was a report on the outcome of the discussions between officers and representatives of the bank regarding the closure of the above.

Messrs. Boothby and O'Shea left the meeting at 8.22 p.m.

Again Members expressed concerns regarding the loss of this facility within Earl Shilton, and, following advice from the Director of Finance regarding the Council's banking arrangements and existing contract with HSBC (following a robust tendering exercise) were of the opinion that when the current contract expired an investigation be made into ethical banking policies.

On the motion of Mr. Bill, seconded by Mr. Nichols it was

RESOLVED –

- i) the closure of the Earl Shilton branch of HSBC be noted with regret; and
- ii) the contents of the report of the Chief Executive and Director of Finance be noted and the continuation of the existing banking arrangements with HSBC Bank Plc be endorsed.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Mayor requested that, in the light of difficulties which had been experienced with the Chamber conferencing system this evening, the appropriate officers be asked to examine the equipment and resolve the problems.

(The meeting closed at 8.29 p.m.)