

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
26th AUGUST 2004 AT 6.35 P.M.

PRESENT: Mr. M.R. Lay - Chairman
Mr. M.A. Hall - Vice-Chairman

Mr. D.C. Bill, Mrs. R. Camamile, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch and
Mrs. M.L. Sherwin

Officers in attendance: Ms. J. Penman, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. R.A. Sargent

160 MINUTES (SC13)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2004 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

161 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

162 AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mr. Peter Wood, of Pritchard Wood, internal auditors attended for this item and provided Members with an insight into the working of this Company with Council officers. The Chairman emphasised the continuing need for this close-working relationship and welcomed the recent establishment of the E-Government Scrutiny Panel, in which internal audit were to be involved.

163 COUNCIL TAX WITHIN THE LOWEST 25% IN ENGLAND (SC14)

Further to minute number 47 of 3rd June 2004 Members gave consideration to the above in the light of the priorities contained in the Council's Corporate Plan. Whilst welcoming the information and figures now provided by the Head of Finance and being satisfied that this did not impact on other Corporate Plan objectives it was moved by Mrs. Camamile, seconded by Mrs. Sherwin and

RESOLVED - for the next Scrutiny Commission meeting the Head of Finance arrange that information be provided as to:-

- The average Shire district budget requirement for Leicestershire districts
- The effect on data with Barwell likely to become a Parish
- Comparison with neighbouring districts which have town councils within their areas

Discussion then ensued as to the area of the Corporate Plan the Scrutiny Commission should examine next and it was agreed that the Director of Community Services be requested to provide for the next Commission meeting a comprehensive report on meeting the Government target of recycling 27% of waste from local households by 2005/06.

164 PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS (SC15)

Further to minute number 108 of 15th July 2004 the Director of Community Services outlined the procedures in place for dealing with such situations and stressed that recommendations made following the previous incursion at Clarendon Park had been implemented. Discussion then ensued with regard to clean-up operations and on the respective responsibilities of the Council and the Contractor(s) during such operations with regard to risk identification and assessment. Additionally, Members discussed arrangements for dealing with secondary incursions and the Director of Community Services undertook to have discussions with the police regarding this.

On the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. Lay it was

RESOLVED - the policy document relating to unauthorised encampments on Council-owned sites be amended to reflect Members' views on the respective responsibilities for risk identification and assessment during clean-up operations, for consideration at the next Commission meeting and the Director of Community Services report back on measures for the prevention of secondary incursions.

Mr. Hall left the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

165 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANEL MEETINGS

Placed before the Commission were the minutes of the following Scrutiny Panel meetings:-

- (a) Contracted Services - 8th July (SC16)
- (b) Finance and Audit - 19th July (SC17)
- (c) Housing Stock Options Appraisal - 12th August (SC18)

Arising from (b) above it was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Lay and

RESOLVED - at the next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission consideration be given to the recommendation of this Panel that an approach be made to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister with regard to relaxing Data Protection restrictions in the sharing of information between council tax/the recovery of non-domestic rates and Benefits.

(The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.)