

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SCRUTINY COMMISSION  
25<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2005 AT 6.30 P.M.

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

Mrs. R. Camamile, Mrs. M.J. Crooks, Mr. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. K.A.J. Hunnybun, Mr. K.W.P. Lynch, Ms. J.E. Price, Mrs. M.L. Sherwin, Mrs. E.A. Spencer, Mr. J.E. Stanley and Mr. R. Ward.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mr. N.B.L. Davis also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. Atkinson, Mr. B. Cullen, Mr. S. Jones, Ms. P. Lavender, Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. D. Tilley.

161 APOLOGY & SUBSTITUTION

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Mr. D.C. Bill for whom Mrs. Crooks substituted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

162 MINUTES (SC17)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

163 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

164 HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY (SC18)

Members were advised of the current policy for the allocation of Council properties and on proposals for the review of such Policy in October of this year. The Commission expressed concern as to certain aspects of the current policy and the Chief Executive indicated that the review should address genuine concerns. If an amended policy was perceived to be fairer and more clearly understood this would result in greater satisfaction to tenants. Members were urged to refer any individual cases which they became aware of to officers direct.

On the motion of Mrs. Crooks, seconded by Mrs. Camamile, it was

RESOLVED - the report be noted and a Panel set up along the lines of the Housing Stock Options Appraisal Scrutiny Panel to consider solely the review of the current Housing Allocations Policy.

165 DRAFT GREEN SPACE STRATEGY (SC19)

Prior to Members' consideration of this the Leisure Services Manager gave a presentation on the aims and Action Plans proposed and emphasised that these would only deliver improvements to Council-owned sites.

Whilst welcoming the strategy concerns were expressed regarding acreage of these sites and the Leisure Services Manager undertook to check areas prior to production of the final document.

166 REVIEW OF RURAL AREAS - UPDATE (C20)

Prior to Members' further consideration of this the Chief Executive reminded the Commission that the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Environment was Councillor Collins and the Head of Culture and Development was Peter Cash (page 3 of report refers). Additionally, Members were requested to note that the timetable for proposed themes had been amended as follows:-

6 <sup>th</sup> October	2005	Environment
17 <sup>th</sup> November	2005	Leisure & Access to Services
5 <sup>th</sup> January	2006	Economic Vitality and Viability

The Commission then received further information as to the timetable/calling of witnesses proposed for this review.

167 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES (SC21 & SC 22)

Placed before the Commission were minutes of the meetings of the Council Services and the Finance and Audit Select Committees held on 28<sup>th</sup> July and 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2005 respectively. Arising from the former, the Chief Executive undertook to provide Members with details of targets/approaching targets relating to benefit processing and from the latter Members were advised that Mrs. Cook had substituted for Mr. Boothby, who had apologised.

168 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (INCLUDING EXAMINATION OF THE FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS, SEPTEMBER/NOVEMBER 2005)(SC23)

Prior to consideration of this Members were circulated with an amended copy of the Forward Plan. Information was then received that the CPA improvement and improvement measures would now be considered by the Commission on 17<sup>th</sup> November and the Review of the Community Plan considered on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2006 (page 8 of report refers). Additionally, arising from the Forward Plan the Commission would, in addition to Cabinet, be considering the implementation of the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

(The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.)