

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
5TH JANUARY 2006 AT 6.30 P.M.

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

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

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mrs. M. Aldridge
and Messrs. J.F. Collins and N.B.L. Davis also attended the
meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. Atkinson, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mr. B. Cullen,
Ms. T. O'Grady, Mr. S. Merry, Mr. R. Palmer, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. T.M. Prowse and
Mr. D. Tilley.

335 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. D.C. Bill and Mrs.
S. Francks and the substitution of the latter by Mrs. Crooks authorised in
accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

336 MINUTES (SC40)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2005 be
confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

337 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

338 REVIEW OF RURAL AREAS – ECONOMIC VITALITY AND VIABILITY AND
CAR PARKING (SC43)

Continuing its examination of the delivery of services to the rural areas the
Commission considered priorities relating to the above.

Mrs. Crooks and Ms. Price entered the meeting at 6.35 p.m. and 6.37
p.m., respectively.

With the appointment recently of a Funding Officer and a Rural Issues and
Events Officer, there would be improved means of communication to the rural
areas and better co-ordination of the facilities available with a framework
established to draw together policies for these areas. Arising from the report of
the Head of Corporate Services:-

339 REVIEW OF RURAL AREAS – ECONOMIC VITALITY AND VIABILITY AND CAR PARKING

1. The need to improve overall co-ordination of information and communication (including funding) be emphasized.
2. The strategic framework for addressing rural issues and rural regeneration (gap analysis of parish aspirations) be developed.
3. There be rural proofing of council strategies and policies.
4. The importance of planning to sustain economic viability be emphasized.
5. Rural access to town centre facilities be examined further.
6. A 'Rural Summit' in the autumn of 2006 be hosted for key partners
7. An assessment be made of the relative strengths/weaknesses of town and village centres. [Resource implications to be considered]
8. Any future rural regeneration strategy encapsulate findings in previously undertaken village appraisals.
9. Support for parishes in development of car parks be continued and recommendations of the Car Parking Task Group be awaited.
10. Comments regarding enforcement of parking issues and decriminalised parking be awaited.

340 AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS STUDY IMPLICATIONS (SC41)

Further to minute No. 71 of 15th June 2005 the Commission considered an amended version of the Housing Needs Study.

Members emphasized the need for all opportunities to be investigated, and the possible use of commuted sums examined. Additionally, the suggestion was made that Fordham Research, commissioned to carry out this assessment on behalf of the Council, be invited to a future meeting of the Housing Task Group to fully explain their research analysis.

RESOLVED –

- (i) subject to the following amendments being noted the revised Housing Needs Study be agreed:-
 - (a) a boroughwide target of 40% affordable housing provision be met on qualifying sites (previously 20%);
 - (b) that, where viability permits, the thresholds of qualifying sites be reduced to 10 units or more/0.5 hectares (previously 25 dwellings or 1 hectare in urban areas); and
 - (c) the requirements identified in the Housing Needs Study be included within a new development plan document to be produced in 2006;

- (ii) Members' comments regarding the investigation of all opportunities and the possible use of commuted sums be noted; and
- (iii) representatives of Fordham Research be invited to a future meeting of the Housing Task Group to fully explain their working methods.

341 HOUSING STRATEGY (SC42)

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the above to the Commission and requested that Members adopt this prior to its submission to the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) for assessment as a "fit for purpose" document. Again reference was made to Fordham Research being invited to a future meeting of the Housing Task Group to discuss the initial Affordable Housing Needs Study. On the motion Mr. Lay, seconded by Mr. Lynch, it was RESOLVED – subject to the inclusion of the findings of the Housing Needs Survey into the final draft, the Housing Strategy and identified priorities be adopted prior to submission to GOEM.

342 MINUTES OF COUNCIL SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE (SC44)

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2005 were agreed.

343 MINUTES OF HOUSING TASK GROUP (SC45)

In receiving advice that the draft revised allocations policy should be ready for implementation by April 2006, the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2005 were agreed.

344 MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AUDIT SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE (SC46)

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2005 were agreed and additionally, on the motion of Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Camamile, it was RESOLVED – the recommendations that the Scrutiny Commission undertake a review of the effectiveness of the Community Safety Partnership be agreed.

345 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME, CABINET FORWARD PLAN AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS (SC47)

Members were invited to update the work programme, and decide whether they wished to consider any key decisions due to be taken by the Cabinet and respond to any consultation documents recently received by the Council.

Arising from this, Members' attention was drawn to the following revised timetable and revisions to the work programme:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 9 th February 2006 | Leicestershire Waste Management Strategy – Consultation. |
| 15 th February 2006 | PCT Reform (and possibly police restructuring and the Local Area Agreement). |

23rd March 2006

Attendance by the Leader of the Council for discussions on the Council's vision for 2006/09 and performance for 2005/06 (rearranged from 4th May 2006) and the pilot CPA inspection report.

(The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.)