

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL  
SCRUTINY COMMISSION  
9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006 AT 6.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Mr. M.R. Lay - Chairman  
Mr. K.W.P. Lynch - Vice-Chairman

Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. R.D. Ellis, Mrs. D. Finney, Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. K.A.J. Hunnybun, 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, Messrs. J.F. Collins and N.B.L. Davis also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr. S. Atkinson, Mr. Michael Brymer, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. T.M. Prowse and Mr. D. Tilley.

402 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr. D.C. Bill, Mrs. R. Camamile and Mr. M.A. Hall and the substitution of Mrs. Finney for Mr. Bill authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

403 MINUTES (SC48)

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

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2006 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

404 ADDITIONAL URGENT BUSINESS BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The Chairman indicated that he had agreed to take as a late item a letter from Mr. D.R. Bown relating to the new concessionary fares scheme, the reason for the urgency being the need to make representation to Cabinet regarding the possible extension of the proposals.

405 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. Stanley declared an interest in the late item submitted by Mr. Bown relating to concessionary travel in that he was a voluntary driver engaged by an organisation in receipt of funding.

406 CONCESSIONARY FARES SCHEME

Members gave consideration to the letter now circulated on behalf of Mr. D.R. Bown calling for the support of the Scrutiny Commission in making representation to Cabinet to consider extending the half price fare scheme up to the Borough boundary and extending the free service to Leicester for the majority of pensioners. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 a revised scheme, in line with the minimum requirements of central government, had been proposed which would allow free travel within a person's home district after 9.30 a.m. and half fare at all times across boundaries within the county, as did the existing scheme. The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Council on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 had agreed to make an additional contribution estimated at £71,000 to this scheme locally for 2006/07, compared to £150,000 in 2005/06.

Reservations being expressed at the proposals and additional points having been made about access to hospitals outside the Borough, it was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Francks and

RESOLVED – the Scrutiny Commission believe that the current proposals are unacceptable and call for a wholesale review of concessionary fares to begin as soon as possible insofar as free travel for Hinckley and Bosworth residents are concerned.

407 LEICESTERSHIRE WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – CONSULTATION

In giving Members a presentation on this the Head of Health & Environment sought the Commission's comments by the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2006 deadline. Concerns were raised with regard to manufacturers' use of excess packaging and the Head of Health & Environment referred to the lobbying role of the Leicestershire Waste Management Partnership in urging manufacturers to reduce the amount of packaging. The proposed new strategy would feed into the developing Waste Development Framework. The Head of Health & Environment called for feedback from Members on:-

supporting funding for this year and the Constitution/decision making powers of the Partnership

supporting the need for new funding arrangements for the Leicestershire Waste Management; and

the urgent need for the development of a Constitution/decision making framework for the Leicestershire Waste Management Partnership.

Mr. Collins left the meeting at 7.28 p.m.

408 LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT (LAA) (SC49)

The Chief Executive reminded Members of the potential impact of and benefits of reward targets in this Agreement, insofar as the Council and residents of Hinckley and Bosworth were concerned and indicated that the reward elements in 3.2 of his report had now been revised and increased to £1,399,000 and £15,418,825, respectively. Additionally, the wording on reward target 4 would be changed. The Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006 had, as delegated by Council, considered the final draft LAA and had endorsed and supported this, subject to minor textual amendments. The Committee reaffirmed their desire to conduct joint scrutiny arrangements on the LAA with other authorities in Leicestershire.

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

RESOLVED – the potential impact and effect of the reward targets on the LAA be noted and regular updates brought back by the Scrutiny reporting process.

409 RURAL AREAS REVIEW – CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (SC50)

Following its review to ensure that the delivery of the Council's provision and services was equally applicable in rural and urban areas the Commission was requested to approve a final report for consideration by Cabinet.

In welcoming this report and its recommendations it was moved by Mr. Lay, seconded by Mr. Ellis and

RESOLVED –

- (i) the draft report, conclusions and recommendations of the rural areas review attached as Appendix 1 to the report of the Head of Corporate Services be approved and presented to Cabinet for agreement; and
- (ii) Cabinet be requested to agree that
  - (a) rural matters are given equitable consideration in the Council's financial prioritization of the budget;
  - (b) the implications for rural communities be added to the Council's committee report template; and
  - (c) the recommendations and conclusions of the rural area's review be integrated into the Council's corporate planning framework.

410 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE PLAN – PROGRESS AND OBJECTIVES (9 MONTHS) (SC51)

Arising from the Commission's intention to monitor progress against the objectives and initiatives indicated in the corporate performance plan Members considered a detailed assessment of achievement from April to December 2005, together with further planned actions. In addition, for the first time the Committee was presented with details of performance management of the Council's key partnerships. The Committee welcomed the detailed reports on both progress with the Corporate Performance Plan and Managing Key Partnerships. In improving the assessment responses each initiative's progress would be quantified with milestones/targets and allocated a red, amber or green status.

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

RESOLVED – the report of the Chief Executive and appendices be approved and further planned action be welcomed.

411 MINUTES OF E-GOVERNMENT SCRUTINY PANEL, HOUSING TASK GROUP, COUNCIL SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE AND FINANCE & AUDIT SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

Presented to Members were the minutes of the following meetings:-

E-Government	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2005	(SC52)
Housing Task Group	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2005	(SC53)
E-Government	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	(SC54)
Council Services	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	(SC55)
Finance & Audit Services	17 <sup>th</sup> January 2006	(SC56)

Arising from which the following was noted:-

- the involvement of the E-Government Scrutiny Panel in the IT process; and
- the attendance by Mr. Lynch at the Task Group meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2005
- the presentation by Fordham Research at the Task Group meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2006.

412 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME, CABINET FORWARD PLAN AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS (SC57)

In considering the work programme the Chairman referred to a future review of the Community Safety Partnership. The Corporate Performance Manager informed the Committee about the desire to engage the Youth Council Members in the democratic process and the potential to jointly work on the proposed scrutiny review of community safety. Concerns were raised that the annual audit letter had yet to be received for consideration by the Finance & Audit Select Committee.

The Corporate Performance Manager indicated that the format of the Cabinet Forward Plan was being updated and would be more detailed to strengthen governance arrangements and to engage the public.

In considering the Cabinet Forward Plan it was noted that the Cabinet was reviewing the neighbourhood warden service at its April meeting.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) the report of the Head of Corporate Services be accepted and the inclusion in the work programme of reviews of the Community Safety Partnership and the Neighbourhood Warden Service be agreed; and
- (ii) that the Scrutiny Commission should jointly work with the Hinckley & Bosworth Youth Council on the proposed scrutiny review of Community Safety.

(The meeting closed at 8.01 p.m.)