

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
31 AUGUST 2006 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr M R Lay - Chairman
Mrs R Camamile - Joint Vice-Chairman
Mr K W P Lynch - Joint Vice-Chairman

Mrs M Aldridge, Mrs C M Claridge, Mr J F Collins, Mr R D Ellis, Mrs D Finney, Mrs S Francks, Mr D E Hinton, Mr K A J Hunnybun, Ms J E Price, Mrs E A Spencer and Mr J E Stanley.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mr M O Bevins, Mr N B L Davis and Mrs R W Wright also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr Michael Brymer, Mr D Bunker, Mr P Cash, Mr B Cullen, Mr M Evans, Miss R Owen and Mrs J Stay.

Also in attendance: Mr O Savage, Consultant.

208 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr P R Batty, Mr D C Bill and Mrs M L Sherwin and the substitution of Mrs Francks for Mr Bill and Mrs Aldridge for Mrs Sherwin authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3

209 MINUTES (SC29)

It was highlighted that Mr Ellis was noted as having returned to the meeting at 8.00pm on both pages 2 and 3, and it was agreed that the second reference to this be deleted. On the motion of Mr Ellis, seconded by Mrs Camamile, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2006 be confirmed subject to the above amendment and signed by the Chairman.

210 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

211 CONCESSIONARY FARES (SC37)

Members received a report which advised of the current position regarding Concessionary Fares affecting residents of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough.

Mr Hinton arrived at 6.40pm.

Concern was expressed at the lack of information from Leicestershire County Council, and Members also questioned the large contribution from the districts concerned with no usage and cost figures upon which to base the decision to continue the scheme.

Members welcomed discussions and debates that were taking place 'behind the scenes'.

RESOLVED -

- (i) a robust stance be supported;
- (ii) it be acknowledged that data sharing is critical to move the situation forward.

212 E-GOVERNMENT SCRUTINY PANEL – MEMBERSHIP

RESOLVED – the membership of the E-Government Scrutiny Panel be agreed as follows:

Mr J F Collins, Mrs M J Crooks, Mr R D Ellis, Mr D E Hinton, Mr K W P Lynch, Ms J E Price, 1 vacancy.

213 CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST – GRANT APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED – a report be brought to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission with regard to grant applications.

Mrs Finney arrived at 7.15pm.

214 SCRUTINY REVIEW – COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (SC30)

Oliver Savage, Consultant for the review, made a presentation to Members and asked for clarification on the main areas of the investigation. He then agreed to produce a first report on practice of other partnerships to be presented to Members at the next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission.

RESOLVED – the Consultant engaged to undertake the review action the points raised and report back to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Commission.

215 TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN – VERBAL UPDATE

It was noted that due to the late item 'Bus Station Delivery Options and Masterplan Progress' (report no. SC38, minute 221 refers), this item had been withdrawn.

Mr Bevins left the meeting at 7.50pm.

216 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BENCHMARKING REPORT (SC31)

For information, Members were presented with a report produced by Stafford Borough Council to which Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council had contributed. It was noted that our scrutiny function was a model of best practice in some areas, and should raise the profile of the Scrutiny Commission and its work. Members also considered the practice of other authorities and what they could learn.

RESOLVED – the benchmarking report be noted.

217 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET FORWARD PLAN (SC32 and SC33)

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2006/2007. Attention was drawn to the next review into Poverty in the Borough and the need to scope the review at a future meeting.

RESOLVED – the work programme be noted.

218 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES / SCRUTINY PANELS

Minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) Finance and Audit Services Select Committee, 31 July 2006 (SC34);
- (ii) Council Services Select Committee, 1 August 2006 (SC35).

Members asked about the outcome of their recommendation to Council from the last meeting of the Scrutiny Commission. It was noted that these were supported. Members felt that there should be a method of feeding back information with regard to the outcome of recommendations to Cabinet and Council and the tracking of reports.

219 MATTER FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

It was moved by Mr Stanley, seconded by Mrs Camamile and

RESOLVED - in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remaining items of business on the ground that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in those paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act indicated alongside the item.

220 PEOPLE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – UPDATE (SC36) (Paragraphs 2 and 10)

Members were updated on the progress made with the People Management Strategy. It was noted that reducing sickness absence was a priority.

RESOLVED – the action plan be endorsed and the report be noted.

Mr Stanley left the meeting at 8.20pm.

221 BUS STATION SITE DELIVERY OPTIONS AND MASTERPLAN PROGRESS (SC38) (Paragraphs 3 and 10)

Members received a report which advised on progress made in relation to the Bus Station site, Hinckley Leisure Centre and other key elements.

A Member expressed concern that the two car parks should not be included in the site area outlined. In response it was noted that a decision was not being made on these until the business case had been completed.

RESOLVED –

- (i) The above comments be considered in further works undertaken;
- (ii) Recommendation 2.1 of the officer's report be supported;

- (iii) Recommendations 2.2 and 2.3 be supported on the grounds that nothing be ruled out;
- (iv) Recommendation 2.4 be amended to include the request for the Joint Party Masterplan Working Group to report back to the Scrutiny Commission;
- (v) Recommendation 2.5 be strongly supported;
- (vi) Recommendation 2.6 be supported;

(The meeting closed at 8.45 pm)