

PRESENT: Mr M R Lay - Chairman
Mrs R Camamile - Joint Vice-Chairman

Mrs M Aldridge, Mr P R Batty, Mr D C Bill, Mrs C M Claridge, Mr R D Ellis, Mrs D Finney, Mr D E Hinton, Mr K A J Hunnybun, Ms J E Price and Mr J E Stanley.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mr W J Crooks also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mr Michael Brymer, Mr D Bunker, Mr R Grantham, Miss R Owen and Mr R Palmer.

Also in attendance: Mr O Savage, Consultant.

346 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr K W P Lynch, Mrs M L Sherwin and Mrs E A Spencer and the substitution of Mrs Aldridge for Mrs Sherwin authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

347 MINUTES (SC57 and SC58)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meetings held on 5 and 19 October be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

348 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this stage.

349 SCRUTINY REVIEW – COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP – RESEARCH PHASE 2 – ACCOUNTABILITY AND STRUCTURE (SC61)

Oliver Savage, the Consultant supporting the review, presented a report to the Scrutiny Commission outlining the statutory requirements with regard to crime and disorder reduction partnerships, and the accountability and structure of the Community Safety Partnership. He also outlined the emerging recommendations of the review which included improving the evaluation of project spending, reviewing the structure and membership of the partnership, focussing on effective leadership, improving the relationship between elements of the partnership and co-ordination, improving and formalising communication between the partnership and Borough Councillors, developing a community engagement plan, and looking at the relationship between the Council's priorities and those of the partnership.

Members felt that a key issue was whether the public's concerns were taken seriously and action was taken to resolve them. Members agreed with the need for the partnership to be chaired by an Elected Member and were informed that the

Leader of the Council was now the Chairman. It was felt that there was also a need for the Community Safety Partnership to report back to full Council regularly. It was reported that the partnership wished to make comments to the Commission before the final report be prepared.

Member asked that Mr Savage draft recommendations as suggested and taking into account the above points and bring these back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – Suggested recommendations be brought back to the next meeting.

350 DRAFT EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL PLAN (SC59)

Members received a report which requested a response to the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan. Members expressed concern over the number of houses required in the Borough per annum, especially in comparison with Blaby District. They also requested clarification on the figure stated for the number of caravans to be sited in the Borough.

Members felt that the Officer Response contained on page 4 of the report was satisfactory, but that (i) should read 'Note the level of housing...', and that number (vi) should be amended to refer to the infrastructure needed before an appeal would be possible.

RESOLVED – the suggested officer response be supported with the amendment of (i) to read 'Note the level of housing...' and the amendment to (vi) to refer to the infrastructure needed.

351 LDF CORE STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY PLAN – MESSAGE FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NEXT STEPS (SC60)

The Scrutiny Commission received a report which informed them of the findings of public consultation on the LDF Core Strategy Preferred Options and the draft Hinckley and Bosworth Community Plan, and which presented the timetable for approval and adoption of the completed Community Plan, the Year One Action Plan and Monitoring Report as agreed by Hinckley and Bosworth Local Strategic Partnership.

Officers stated that a good letter of support had been received from the Government Office for the East Midlands, but concern had also been expressed with regard to directions of growth.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the need to amend the Core Strategy Preferred Options document in light of advice from the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) and to re-consult on this amended Core Strategy Preferred Options document in 2007 be endorsed;
- (ii) the timetable for approving and adopting the amended Community Plan, Year One Action Plan and Monitoring Report be endorsed.

Members received a report which advised them of the findings of the Urban Housing Potential Study produced by Baker Associates for Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council.

The importance of engaging with Parishes was highlighted. Concern was expressed that many affordable housing developments were not offered to young people.

RESOLVED – adoption of the Urban Housing Potential Study as evidence for the emerging Local Development Framework be endorsed.

353 PROPOSED STRUCTURE TO DELIVER ECONOMIC REGENERATION ACROSS THE BOROUGH (SC65)

A report was presented to Members which advised them of a proposed structure to deliver economic regeneration across the borough, which would centre on establishing an Economic Development Theme Group as part of the Local Strategic Partnership Structure.

Members felt that an emphasis should be placed on supporting small businesses, as there was a shortage of units and some had had to stop trading.

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed.

354 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – 6 MONTH REPORT 2006/07 (SC62)

The Scrutiny Commission was provided with 6 month performance management information for the municipal year 2006/07. It was summarised that the majority of performance indicators had improved, and those areas that were underperforming now had action plans in place. Members challenged progress on some aspects of the report. It was explained that although the authority was improving, it was not consistently doing so at the same rate as others.

RESOLVED – the report and appendices be endorsed.

355 CONSULTATION RESULTS OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND BUDGET SPEND (SC63)

Members were provided with the results and actions following the consultation on Council Priorities and Budget Spend. It was stated that the consultation had been extensive and had included a Citizens Panel survey, a cross-party workshop and a questionnaire in the Borough Bulletin.

Members felt that the data produced was useful, although there were some weaknesses. Officers explained that the next issue of the Borough Bulletin would explain the responses and planned actions.

RESOLVED – the results of the consultation be further incorporated into the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2006/07 and the Cabinet Forward Plan November 2006 to February 2007. A report on St Mary's Churchyard was requested for a future meeting.

RESOLVED – the Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan be noted with the above addition.

357 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES / SCRUTINY PANELS

Minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) Housing Task Group, 27 September 2006 (SC68);
- (ii) E-Government Scrutiny Panel, 9 October 2006 (SC69);
- (iii) Finance and Audit Services Select Committee, 23 October 2006 (SC70);
- (iv) Council Services Select Committee, 26 October 2006 (SC71).

(The meeting closed at 8.42 pm)