

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
4 JANUARY 2007 AT 6.30 PM

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

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

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mr M O Bevins, Mrs M J Crooks and Mrs R W Wright also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mr Michael Brymer, Mr P F Cash, Mr R Grantham, Mr S Merry, Miss R Owen and Mr D Purnell.

Also in attendance: Mr O Savage, Consultant.

410 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

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

Messrs Ellis and Hunnybun arrived at 6.35pm.

411 MINUTES (SC72)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Mrs Crooks arrived at 6.40pm.

412 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Camamile declared a non-prejudicial interest in item 12 as Ward Councillor for one of the areas mentioned.

413 SCRUTINY REVIEW – COMMUNITY SAFETY – DRAFT FINAL REPORT (SC73)

Members received a report which set out final recommendations following the Community Safety Review undertaken by the Commission. Members again expressed concern about the lack of reporting and feedback from the Community Safety Partnership, and in response the Commission was informed that regular reports would be submitted to the Scrutiny Commission and Cabinet in future.

Members felt that the importance of working with rural parishes should also be highlighted in the final report.

RESOLVED

- (i) the report and recommendations contained therein be accepted;
- (ii) a further recommendation be added with regard to the importance of working with rural parishes.

414 SCRUTINY REVIEW – POVERTY IN THE BOROUGH

Members received a presentation to assist them in scoping the next Scrutiny Review on Poverty in the Borough. It was felt that previous research on poverty undertaken by the authority and other agencies would be a useful starting point. However concern was expressed about the intention to present a final report in March as Members felt this did not allow enough time for a comprehensive review to be carried out. It was therefore agreed that the outcome of primary research would be brought to the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission in March, and the next step would be discussed at that time.

Mr Bevins left the meeting at 7.30pm.

RESOLVED – primary research be undertaken and the outcome be reported to the Scrutiny Commission in March.

415 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS (SC74)

The Scrutiny Commission was presented with a report which informed them of progress with the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement, following the first 6 months of the three year agreement. Members hoped the Local Area Agreement would be successful, and it was reported that the possibility of Local Area Agreement Scrutiny was still being pursued.

Mrs Finney left the meeting at 7.55pm and Mr Stanley left at 7.56pm.

RESOLVED –

- (i) progress made be acknowledged;
- (ii) joint Scrutiny of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement be pursued.

416 CITIZENS PANEL RESULTS – AUTUMN SURVEY (SC75)

Members received a report which outlined the results of the Citizens Panel Survey conducted in September 2006. It was stated that the Citizens Panel was broadly representative of the whole Borough. Some Members had concerns with regard to the input of the PCT since the reconfiguration of services.

Mrs Finney and Mr Stanley returned at 8.01pm.

RESOLVED

- (i) the recommendations contained within the report be endorsed;
- (ii) concerns with regard to the PCT be noted.

417 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (SC76)

Members received a report which informed them of the Local Development Scheme timetable and sought support to submit the revised draft of the Scheme to the Secretary of State.

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed.

418 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.

419 RESPECT STANDARD FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT (SC77)

The Scrutiny Commission received a report which advised them of the Government's 'Respect Agenda'. Members welcomed the report.

RESOLVED – the proposed action and timetable be endorsed.

At this juncture, Mrs Camamile repeated her non-prejudicial interest in the following item as Ward Councillor, and Mr Lay declared that he also had a non-prejudicial interest in the following item, again as Ward Councillor.

420 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE CAR PARKING TASK GROUP (SC78)

Members received a report from the Car Parking Task Group in response to the concerns raised at a previous meeting at the Scrutiny Commission. Members expressed concern that implementing a charge for rural car parks could lead to an increase in on-street parking.

RESOLVED – Members endorse the recommendations of the Car Parking Task Group outlined in Section 3.5 of the report.

Mrs Crooks left the meeting at 8.45pm.

421 MEMBERSHIP OF E-GOVERNMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

It was agreed that Mrs Cook would fill the vacancy on the E-Government Scrutiny Panel.

422 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (SC79)

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2006/07. Members were reminded to let the Chairman know if they had any suggestions for future Scrutiny topics.

RESOLVED – the Work Programme be noted.

423 CABINET FORWARD PLAN (SC80)

Members received the Forward Plan of Cabinet and Council decisions and were given the opportunity to ask to scrutinise any of the reports listed. It was noted that the Peggs Close report would be brought to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Commission.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

424 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES / SCRUTINY PANELS

Minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) E-Government Scrutiny Panel, 27 November 2006 (SC81);
- (ii) Finance and Audit Services Select Committee, 4 December 2006 (SC82).

Mrs Finney left the meeting at 8.50pm.

425 ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (SC83)

Minutes of the Adult Social Care and Health Services Scrutiny Committee were received. It was explained that this had now taken the place of the Hinckley and Bosworth Health Scrutiny Sub-committee due to the recent reconfiguration of the PCT. Members expressed concern that the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth had no representation on this new Committee in the form of either a Borough Councillor or a County Councillor for the Borough.

(The meeting closed at 8.51 pm)