

**HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**SCRUTINY COMMISSION**  
**22 MARCH 2007 AT 6.30 PM**

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

Mr D C Bill, Mr J F Collins, Mrs M A Cook, Mr R D Ellis, Mrs D Finney and Mr K A J Hunnybun.

Officers in attendance: Mr Michael Brymer, Mr B Cullen, Mrs T Darke, Miss R Owen and Mr T M Prowse.

589 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

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

590 **MINUTES (SC99)**

On the motion of Mr Hunnybun, seconded by Mr Bill, it was

**RESOLVED** – the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

591 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this time.

592 **LEICESTERSHIRE PROMOTIONS ANNUAL REPORT (SC100)**

Members received a report that provided an annual 'Value for Money' review of the Hinckley and Bosworth Tourism Blueprint for the period to January to December 2006. Members welcomed the report and suggested that people needed to be encouraged to lodge in the Borough as it was well placed for many attractions. It was also suggested that Leicestershire Promotions should include Shackerstone Railway and Market Bosworth Station in their advertising.

**RESOLVED** – the Annual Tourism report from Leicestershire Promotions be endorsed and the above comments be forwarded to Cabinet.

593 **DECISIONS BY PLANNING COMMITTEE (SC102)**

The Commission was informed of planning appeal decisions that had gone against the decision of the Local Planning Authority. The similarity of the first two decisions in the report was highlighted, and officers felt that although the original decisions had been taken appropriately, reflecting the relevant

policies, further consideration would have to be given in future to the design of individual buildings when considering applications for signage.

With regard to the third appeal noted in the report (Hope Community Church), a Member felt that the decision made by the Planning Committee should be looked into.

Members were presented with a letter from the De Montfort Ward Councillors with regard to the fourth appeal listed in the report, which explained why the appeal had been delayed, and reasons for opposition to the application. Members felt that good reasons for refusal had been given at the time of the Planning Committee's decision.

RESOLVED –

- (i) Comments with regard to the Hope Community Church decision be followed up;
- (ii) the report be noted.

594 SCORES ON DOORS SCHEME (SC101)

Members were presented with a report which sought endorsement for the introduction of a 'Scores on Doors' Scheme in the Borough following food hygiene inspections. It was explained that hygiene standards would be published on a publicly accessible website with a link from the Borough Council's website, but Members felt that this information should also be provided outside the establishments if possible, with the date of the last inspection and the name of the proprietor at the time of the inspection. Members also felt that good quality establishments should be promoted, for example on tourist information guides.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the adoption of a 'Scores on Doors' Scheme be endorsed;
- (ii) star ratings be posted on doors of establishments, along with the date of inspection and the name of the proprietor at that time, if possible;
- (iii) good quality establishments be promoted to bring business into the Borough.

595 ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER (SC111)

Members received a report which advised them of the content and recommendations in the Annual Audit Letter for the year end 2005/06 for Use of Resources, and to December 2006 in relation to Direction of Travel. It was highlighted that performance indicators showed good continuous performance and that there was no longer an issue with regard to Member-Officer relationships.

Members welcomed the report but felt that it did not adequately portray the good performance of the authority. They queried the reason for only receiving two out of four for Financial Management, and in response it was explained that this was because the Annual Audit Letter published last year was not available on the Council's website by the target date of 31 March. Members felt that some aspects of the report should be challenged.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the content of the Annual Audit Letter be noted;
- (ii) a report be requested from the Chief Executive in the next cycle of meetings on actions to address the recommendations made by the Audit Commission in the Annual Audit Letter;
- (iii) the Commission's concern with regard to the Financial Management aspect of the Letter be noted.

596 DEVELOPMENT OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (SC103)

Members received a report and presentation which included a first draft of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2006/07, an update on the Poverty in the Borough Scrutiny project, consideration of the Local Government White Paper for the Overview and Scrutiny function and development of the Scrutiny Commission Work Programme for 2007/08.

Mrs Finney left the meeting at 8.03pm and returned at 8.06pm.

The importance of scrutinising external organisations including the Primary Care Trust and the LSP was expressed. It was suggested that the Scrutiny Commission receives a copy of the LSP's Annual Report to discuss and challenge.

With regard to a previous recommendation arising from the Community Safety Scrutiny review suggesting that the Borough Council's Community Safety output be investigated, it was reported that the Audit Commission would be undertaking a review of the service shortly, and the inspector's report would be brought back to the Commission.

It was noted that as part of the Work Programme, the Council Services Select Committee would be looking at environmental issues.

RESOLVED – the outcomes of the Rural Summit and the planned response be noted.

597 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (SC104)

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2006/07.

RESOLVED – the Work Programme be noted.

598 CABINET FORWARD PLAN (SC94)

Members received the Forward Plan of Cabinet and Council decisions and were given the opportunity to ask to scrutinise any of the reports listed. Members asked that the Kitchen Waste and Play Strategy reports be brought before the Scrutiny Commission before a decision being made by the Cabinet.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the Kitchen Waste and Play Strategy reports be considered by the Scrutiny Commission before a decision being made by the Cabinet;
- (ii) the Forward Plan be noted.

599 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES / SCRUTINY PANELS

Minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) Council Services Select Committee, 25 January 2007 (SC106);
- (ii) Housing Task Group, 1 February 2007 (SC107);
- (iii) Finance and Audit Services Select Committee, 5 February 2007 (SC108);
- (iv) Finance and Audit Services Select Committee, 26 February 2007 (SC109);
- (v) Council Services Select Committee, 1 March 2007 (SC110).

(The meeting closed at 8.26 pm)