

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
19 APRIL 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 C M Claridge, Mr J F Collins, Mr R D Ellis and Mr K A J Hunnybun.

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

631 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr D S Cope, Mrs D Finney and Mrs M L Sherwin.

632 **MINUTES (SC112)**

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

633 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this time.

634 **QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

The Chairman reported that he had received a petition as follows:

“We the undersigned wish to state that we have been very satisfied with the Bus Service provided by Centrebus for the past 6 months, and are very unhappy about the rumour that this service is to end in May – the service is useful and reliable and the drivers are friendly and helpful”.

It was noted that this petition would be passed on to the appropriate authority.

635 **SCRUTINY REVIEW: POVERTY IN THE BOROUGH – INTERIM REPORT**

A document entitled ‘A Review of Income Deprivation in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough’ was tabled at the meeting. Members requested more statistical information with regard to poverty, including the number of children in ‘poor’ households, the number of single parents and those living as an extended family. Information on benefit take-up was also requested, and whether there was a link between poverty and ethnic group.

RESOLVED – The report be noted and a more substantive report be requested.

636 LEICESTERSHIRE, LEICESTER AND RUTLAND GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS ACCOMMODATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (SC115)

Members received a report which advised them of the findings of the Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment Report carried out by the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies on behalf of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council along with the remainder of the planning authorities in Leicestershire and Rutland.

It was explained that the Cabinet the previous evening had agreed an amended recommendation subject to the Scrutiny Commission's comments, omitting part (ii) and introducing a new part (i) with regard to an equitable approach to the provision of pitches across the county. Members supported these amendments, and were also unhappy that it hadn't been taken into consideration that some sites were on the edge of a neighbouring authority and despite using facilities within this borough, did not count towards this borough's quota of sites.

Mrs Camamile arrived at 7.03pm.

It was also explained that although figures were quoted in terms of 'pitches', several caravans could be sited on each pitch. In response officers clarified that the LDF stated that 1 site with up to 10 caravans would be required, which was more reasonable than the suggested 10 'pitches'.

Members reported that representations had been made to the County Council asking them to delay publication of this information due to its potentially political nature in light of the forthcoming local elections, but the request had been turned down. Members asked for their unhappiness in the way this had been dealt with to be minuted.* (see note)

RESOLVED – the Scrutiny Commission:

- (i) supports the following Cabinet resolution:
 - (a) in the submission of a written statement to the Regional Spatial Strategy Examination in Public it be stated that Cabinet has serious concerns regarding the allocation of pitches, finds the case unproven for additional facilities and is of the view that the Needs Assessment is not the appropriate vehicle to determine the location of future provision;
 - (b) the adoption of the Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment Report as evidence for the emerging Local Development Framework be agreed;
 - (c) the Written Statement advocate that there should be equity in the allocation of residential pitches across the Counties of Leicestershire and Rutland;

- (d) the decision of Council (minute no. 318 of 31 October 2006) to submit an expression of interest to the Department of Communities and Local Government regarding funding of a new gypsy and traveller transit site on the basis of a full bid being worked up and submitted in 2007/08 be confirmed.
- (ii) supports the provision in the borough of 1 gypsy and traveller transit site with up to 10 vans;
- (iii) expresses its concern with regard to gypsy and traveller sites on the edge of neighbouring authorities which do not count towards this Borough's quota of sites despite using facilities within the Borough.

* NOTE: This has subsequently been clarified and the County Council were not responsible for the timetabling of the publication. This work was being coordinated by officers at Leicester City Council and the publication date was determined by deadlines for submissions of evidence for the Examination into the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Mr Bill left the meeting at 7.20pm.

637 VOLUNTARY SECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE (SC113)

Members received a report which informed them of the outcomes of a Review of Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure in Leicestershire and outlined the options available.

Mr Bill returned to the meeting at 7.25pm.

Members expressed their support for option B, but added that accountability of voluntary organisations needed to be considered, including processes followed and communication with the public.

RESOLVED – Model B as outlined in appendix A to the report be supported with the added request that accountability, processes and communication should be considered.

638 CONSULTATION RESULTS – GENERAL USER SATISFACTION SURVEY (SC114)

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of the findings of the General User Satisfaction Survey conducted in September to November 2006 and the proposed action resulting from the survey.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the messages from the User Satisfaction Survey be incorporated into the appropriate service business delivery plan to inform future service delivery;

- (ii) specific geographical perceptions be addressed and incorporated into the appropriate service business delivery plan to inform future service deliver.

639 GRAMBLING ACT 2005 - FEES (SC116)

Members were informed of the implications of charging for fees in respect of the Gambling Act 2005.

RESOLVED – delegated authority to the Chief Executive in conjunction with the Leader of the Council to agree the adoption of fees be supported.

640 COMMUNITY SERVICES STRATEGY FOR LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND (SC117)

Members received a copy of a letter and report from Leicestershire and Rutland NHS with regard to the Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust Community Services Strategy.

Members felt that the report looked only at the short-term situation and it was suggested that in the long-term, developing local facilities would save money for the PCT.

At this juncture, Mrs Claridge declared a non-prejudicial interest as her son worked at Walsgrave Hospital.

Mr Batty left the meeting at 8.06pm.

Members requested that the Director of the PCT be invited to a meeting of the Scrutiny Commission to discuss the local health economy in Hinckley and Bosworth.

RESOLVED – the Director of the PCT be invited to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Commission.

641 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT (SC118)

The Scrutiny Commission was provided with the final draft of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2006/07.

RESOLVED – the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2006/07 be agreed.

642 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.

RESOLVED – the Forward Plan be noted.

643 POSITION STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SCRUTINY COMMISSION (SC121)

Attention was drawn to the section of the document relating to the Local Area Agreement, and the meeting was informed that the County Council did not support joint scrutiny of this but had suggested an annual meeting and also invited Members to the County Council's Scrutiny meetings. However, Members still felt that joint Scrutiny should be pursued.

RESOLVED – the situation be noted and joint scrutiny of the Local Area Agreement be pursued.

644 MATTER FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC MAY BE EXCLUDED

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

RESOLVED - in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remaining item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 10 of Part I of Schedule 12A of that Act.

645 TRIAL COLLECTION OF KITCHEN FOOD WASTE (SC120)

Members were advised of a proposed trial scheme for the collection of kitchen food waste. The two options for collection of waste were outlined.

RESOLVED – the recommendations contained within the report be supported.

(The meeting closed at 8.40 pm)