

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
14 JUNE 2007 AT 6.32 PM

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

Mr. J.G. Bannister, Mr. P.R. Batty, Mr. P.S. Bessant, Mr. D.M. Gould, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. P. Hall, Mr. C. Ladkin, Dr. J.R. Moore, Mr. K. Nichols and Mr. R. Ward.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4 Messrs. D.S. Cope and W.J. Crooks also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr Michael Brymer, Ms. S. Crossfield, Mr B Cullen, Mr. S. Jones, Mr. S. Merry, Mrs. P.I. Pitt, Mr. D. Purnell and Mr B. Whirrity.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Chairman welcomed everyone to this first Commission meeting of the Municipal year.

41 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. J.D. Cort and A.J. Smith and the following substitutions authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3:-

Mr. Hall for Mr. Smith
Mr. Ward for Mr. Cort.

42 MINUTES (SC1)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Personal, non-prejudicial interests were declared in report SC4, as follows:-

Mr. Batty as a member of Groby Parish Council
Mr. and Mrs. Hall and Mr. Lynch as members of Burbage Parish Council.
Mr. Lay as a member of Markfield Parish Council
Mr. Ward as a member of Stoke Golding Parish Council.

Additionally, Mr. and Mrs. Hall declared a personal and prejudicial interest in report SC3 in that they had been involved in the process of securing CCTV equipment at Castle Court, Burbage.

44 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2007/08 (SC2)

Prior to the Commission's consideration of this the Design and Conservation Officer gave Members a brief presentation highlighting the improvement schemes which officers proposed should be undertaken in 2007/08.

Mr. Lynch left the meeting at 6.40 pm returning at 6.42pm.

In seeking Members' endorsement of this programme the Deputy Chief Executive emphasised the balance in funding projects undertaken in the rural and urban areas and urged that Parish Councils and Members come forward with suggestions for improvements within their respective areas for inclusion in next year's programme. The Commission endorsed the success of attracting external funding for these schemes and the 'added value' this provided to the borough.

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

RESOLVED – the programme of Environmental Improvement Schemes as set out in appendix 1 to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive be endorsed and implemented in the financial year 2007/08.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall, having declared an interest in the following item, left the meeting at 7.05pm whilst this was considered.

45 NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNCIL-OWNED ESTATES (SC3)

Members were advised of progress following requests from tenant groups and residents for improvements to common areas on council-owned estates and their agreement sought to future scheme requests. It was emphasised that this was a rolling programme and input would be welcomed.

Since the colour presentation earlier this evening relating to the environmental improvement programme had been very informative the call was made that future reports on neighbourhood improvements also include colour material.

On the motion of Mr. Ward, seconded by Mr. Nichols it was

RESOLVED –

- (i) progress against the original schemes be noted;
- (ii) the programme for 2007/08 be undertaken as detailed in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive;
- (iii) further consultation be undertaken to identify areas to be included in a three year rolling programme; and

- (iv) additional criteria be added linking priorities to LSP priority neighbourhood areas.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall returned to the meeting at 7.10pm

46 PARISH AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE FUND (SC4)

In providing Members with details of applications for funding for 2007/08 the Cultural Services Manager briefly highlighted the timetable for the annual submission and processing of applications. Of the 15 bids submitted for this year it was recommended that 13 be approved.

Discussion arose with regard to the carrying forward to the following year's programme any surplus monies to ensure that these were not used to fund other projects within the Capital Programme.

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

RESOLVED –

- (i) the funding allocations detailed in section 4 of the report of the Head of Culture and Development be agreed; and
- (ii) any surplus monies remaining at the end of the financial year be rolled forward for inclusion in next year's Fund.

47 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMERCIAL SERVICES ENFORCEMENT DELIVERY PLAN (SC5)

The Commission was invited to comment on this prior to consideration by Council. Whilst welcoming this document and paying tribute to the work of officers involved in these services Members suggested that in future years this Plan include a glossary and percentage details be provided as to the grading of premises.

It was moved by Mr. Lay, seconded by Mrs. Camamile and

RECOMMENDED – the Environmental Health Commercial Services Enforcement Service Delivery Plan 2007/08 be approved.

48 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2006/07 (SC6)

Presented to Members was the end of year performance report for 2006/07 and the latest draft of the Council's Corporate Performance Plan 2007/12. The report of the Chief Executive highlighted areas which had improved in 2006/07 and set out this Council's performance indicators against the best. It was emphasised by the Corporate Performance and Strategy Manager that performance indicators within this Authority were actively managed, not merely monitored, and Action Plans produced as necessary.

Discussion and challenge arose with regard to alerting the public as to how well the Council was performing with regard to value for money services. Members were anxious to provide an accurate picture, e.g. indicating the County Council's share of the council tax figure when information was presented to the public to reflect the total cost of council tax. The Corporate Performance and Strategy Manager reminded Members that this Authority was committed to sharing information and to be open and transparent and indicated that the messages which the Council wished to convey fully met the requirements of the Audit Commission.

Mr. Lynch left the meeting at 7.40 pm and Mr. Hall at 7.42 pm returning at 7.45 pm and 7.48 pm respectively. Mr. Batty left the meeting at 7.48 pm.

A Member then called for a representative to be appointed on ENABLE, a Leicestershire County Council led partnership and asked for progress on the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change to be considered.

The Deputy Chief Executive referred briefly to the level of statistical information presented to Members and indicated that in future reports there would be greater emphasis on electronic information with paper copies only indicating highlights.

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

RESOLVED – the following be endorsed:-

- (i) the end of year performance indicator outturn information contained within the Corporate Performance Plan 2007/12;
- (ii) progress towards implementing the Corporate Performance Plan contained within the Corporate Performance Plan 2007/12; and
- (iii) progress to manage key partnerships provided at appendix 3 to the report of the Chief Executive and the Corporate Performance Plan 2007/12 for onward submission to Council on 26 June 2007.

49 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – END OF YEAR REPORT 2006/07 (SC7)

Consideration was given to a progress report on the management of strategic risks identified in the Strategic Risk Register and the development of the Council's risk management arrangements. This report had also been considered and challenged by the Finance and Audit Services Select Committee which was satisfied as to progress.

Mr. Gould left the meeting at 8.03 pm.

It was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Camamile and

RESOLVED – the following be endorsed:-

- (i) the Strategic Risk Register as an accurate account of the current strategic risks facing the Authority – appendix A to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive;
- (ii) progress to develop action plans for net red and amber risks;
- (iii) the deletion of those risks noted as no longer threatening the delivery of the Council's objectives; and
- (iv) progress to deliver the Risk Management Implementation Plan – appendix B to the report.

50 HOUSING TASK GROUP

Arising from the need to appoint to this Body, which it was suggested need not be politically balanced, but comprise some 11 members it was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Lay and

RESOLVED – Mrs. Camamile be appointed Chairman of the Housing Task Group and the Corporate Governance Officer write to Members to canvas response as to those Members who wished to serve on the Group.

51 E-GOVERNMENT SCRUTINY PANEL

Consideration was given to the composition of this, which it was reiterated would not relate solely to IT matters, and on the motion of Mr. Lay, seconded by Mrs. Camamile it was

RESOLVED – this Panel be chaired by Mr. Lynch and additionally comprise Messrs. Bessant, Cartwright, Gould and Nichols, with two further names being advised in due course by Mr. Lynch.

52 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (SC8)

The Corporate Performance and Strategy Manager highlighted the intention for the Commission to review the workings of the Local Strategic Partnership and to track the implementation of previous recommendations arising from the reviews of the Community Safety Partnership and the Rural Areas. As a rolling document any other areas for examination could be added, as necessary.

Following the suggestion from the Chairman that the Commission adopt an objective approach and commission research to ascertain the public's views with regard to the development of the Hinckley bus station site it was agreed that the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen, the Executive and the Chief and Deputy Chief Executive liaise to consider the Commission's best approach to this issue.

Discussion then arose with regard to the examination by the Council Services Select Committee of the effectiveness of the Nottingham Declaration and related energy efficiency issues.

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

RESOLVED – the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme be endorsed, with the Council Services Select Committee examining the effectiveness of the Nottingham Declaration and related energy efficiency issues in due course.

53 FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS (SC9)

Members having been informed that the dates for consideration of Sheltered Housing Schemes had been put back and this item would not now come before the Commission until September 2007 it was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Nichols and

RESOLVED – the contents of the Forward Plan be endorsed.

54 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Subject to the third paragraph of minute number 12 of the Finance and Audit Services Select Committee meeting on 16 April 2007 being amended to read 'level 2' it was moved by Mr. Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Camamile and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the Finance and Audit and the Council Services Select Committee meetings held on 16 and 28 April 2007 respectively be noted.

(The meeting closed at 8.35 pm)