

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
6 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman
Mr KWP Lynch - Joint Vice-Chairman

Mr JG Bannister, Mr PR Batty, Mr PS Bessant, Mrs A Hall, Mr P Hall, Mr C Ladkin, Mr T McClure, Dr JR Moore, Mr K Nichols, Mr AJ Smith and Mr R Ward.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mr DC Bill, Mr WJ Crooks, Mr DW Inman, Mr R Mayne and Mrs J Richards also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mr C Bellavia, Mr Michael Brymer, Mr M Evans, Mr S Jones, Mr S Kohli, Miss L Horton, Miss R Owen and Mr R Palmer.

198 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mrs Camamile, Mr Gould and Mr Morrell with the substitution of Mr Ward for Mrs Camamile and Mr Hall for Mr Gould authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

199 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

200 QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

The following question and reply was received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.

Question submitted by Mr NBL Davis

“Could the Chairman please comment as to what enquiries and responses the consultants MACE made and received from potential Public / Private Initiative operators such as Cannons, Fitness First, Leisure Connection, Parkwood Health and Fitness and Virginactive with regard to the Hinckley Leisure Centre in its current or future format. This project including contingency fees and VAT must be approximately £20 million”.

Response from Mr MR Lay, Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission

At this stage of the project, no Public/Private Initiative operators have been contacted. No assumptions have been made with regards to potential contributions via the Private sector.

Subject to Full Council, it is proposed that a cross party Working Group be established to oversee the development of this project. The procurement options will be fully considered by this Group.

201 COUNCIL OFFICES

The Scrutiny Commission received a presentation on options for the future of the Council Offices. It was noted that the Donaldson report had recommended option 3c. Members were asked to give an indication of which option they would support and how much money they would recommend allocating from the capital programme to this scheme.

Members expressed concern that there appeared to be no definite costings for any of the options, and in response officers suggested that it had not been appropriate to get a detailed structural survey of the current building and therefore the exact cost of refurbishment was not known.

A Member suggested that more information on costs was needed before a final recommendation could be made, and suggested that £2 million be allocated in the capital programme subject to a full report being brought before Members early next year after the results of the full structural surveys were known. This suggestion did not receive full support of the Commission.

Mr Lynch, seconded by Dr Moore, proposed that a full structural survey of the Council Offices be obtained in order to assess the costs of refurbishment, but that moving the offices to a new building be not supported. Upon being put to the vote this proposal was declared CARRIED.

RECOMMENDED –

- (i) a full structural survey of the Council Offices be obtained;
- (ii) moving the offices to a new building be not supported.

202 RETAIL CAPACITY STUDY (SC43)

Mr Bill left the meeting at 7.42pm.

Members were advised of the findings of the Retail Capacity Study produced by consultants on behalf of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council.

RECOMMENDED – Council adopt the Retail Capacity Study to be used as an evidence document for the emerging Local Development Framework and as evidence for determining planning applications.

Mr Bill returned at 7.50pm.

203 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: HINCKLEY TOWN CENTRE AREA ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT - PREFERRED OPTIONS CONSULTATION (SC44)

Members received a report which advised them of the need to consult upon the Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan Preferred Options paper and Sustainability Appraisal.

RECOMMENDED – a six-week period of consultation on the Preferred Options document for the Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan and Sustainability Appraisal from Monday 24 September to Monday 5 November inclusive be undertaken.

204 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED OPTIONS (SC45)

Members were advised of the need to consult upon the Core Strategy Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal.

Dr Moore left the meeting at 8.00pm and returned at 8.05pm. Messrs Inman and Mayne arrived at 8.05pm. Mr Ward left at 8.12pm and returned at 8.15pm.

It was noted that more detailed proposals would be brought before Members when the results of the consultation had been received.

RECOMMENDED –

- (i) a six-week period of consultation on the Core Strategy Preferred Options document and Sustainability Appraisal from Monday 24 September to Monday 5 November inclusive be undertaken;
- (ii) the Directions of Growth Study (2007) and Hinckley Core Strategy Transport Review (2007) be used as evidence base for the Core Strategy Preferred Options.

Mr Bill left at 8.22pm.

205 HINCKLEY LEISURE CENTRE FEASIBILITY STUDY (SC46)

The Scrutiny Commission received a report which updated them on a proposed strategic way forward as to the future development of the Hinckley Leisure Centre. It was noted that the Feasibility Study completed by MACE suggested that 'option 1' was the best option, with a new leisure centre being built on a site off the A47 with a 25m pool. Officers stated that there was not sufficient funding for this scheme if other priorities in the Capital Programme were to be achieved, therefore Members were asked to consider a strategic way forward by agreeing a sum of money to be allocated in the capital programme. This would then allow the opportunity to produce options on the best use of the allocated money.

A Member expressed concerns with regard to moving the leisure facilities out of the town centre due to the possible reduction in footfall in the town centre and difficulties in accessing the proposed A47 site by public transport.

Members expressed concerns with regard to the suggestion to refurbish the current leisure centre, due to the high costs involved and the length of closure of the facilities that would be necessary to enable the refurbishment.

Messrs Bill, Inman and Mayne left the meeting at 8.59pm.

A Member asked if private investment had been considered, which would mean that a private operator would build and run the leisure facilities, rather than the Council making the provision. In response it was agreed that this had been considered and could be looked into separately.

RECOMMENDED –

- (i) the A47 Leicester Road site be re-affirmed as the preferred location for the Leisure Centre;
- (ii) the strategic direction as outlined in section 5 of the report be supported;
- (iii) a cross-party working group be established to oversee the development of this project.

(The meeting closed at 9.05 pm)

CHAIRMAN