

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
11 OCTOBER 2007 AT 6.30 PM

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

Mr JG Bannister, Mr PS Bessant, Mr DM Gould, Mr C Ladkin, Dr
JR Moore, Mr K Nichols and Mr AJ Smith.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Mr DC Bill also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mr Michael Brymer, Mr P Cash, Mr B Cullen, Mr M Evans, Mr S Jones, Mr S Kohli, Miss R Owen, Mr TM Prowse and Mrs J Puffett.

253 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr Batty, Mr Cort and Mrs Hall.

254 MINUTES (SC28)

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meetings held on 30 August and 6 September 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

255 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

256 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) SCRUTINY REVIEW: INTERVIEW OF WITNESSES

The Chairman introduced Greg Drozdz; Sue Langley; Andy Robinson, Deputy Chief Executive of Leicestershire County Council; David Sprason, Leader of Leicestershire County Council and Mandy Warden.

Members of the Scrutiny Commission asked questions of all witnesses to assist them in their review of the LSP.

It was agreed that a report would now be compiled and recommendations made as a result of the review.

RESOLVED – a report be compiled summarising the interview of witnesses for the Scrutiny Commission’s review of the LSP.

257 HINCKLEY CLUB FOR YOUNG PEOPLE PROJECT (SC49)

Members were updated on progress of the scheme to relocate Hinckley Club for Young People. The Executive Member responsible for Culture and Development had been invited to the meeting but had sent his apologies.

Concern was expressed with regard to the accuracy of the estimated costs and information for example the number of active members of the club. It was requested that the Finance & Audit Services Select Committee have the opportunity to look at the business plan and costings before any further work is done on the scheme.

RESOLVED – the business plan and costings be presented to the Finance & Audit Services Select Committee before any further work is undertaken on the scheme.

258 ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2007/08 (SC50)

Members were presented with the 2007/08 Asset Management Strategy.

RESOLVED – the Strategy be endorsed.

259 TOWN CENTRE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (SC51)

Members received a report which asked them to support the request for supplementary estimates for within the Economic Development revenue budget to reflect the total costs of the post of Town Centre Business Development Manager.

Members asked if other town centres within the Borough could be considered as Business Improvement Districts. It was confirmed that the post under discussion was a temporary task and finish post for Hinckley Town Centre, and that if successful consideration may be given to rolling it out elsewhere.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the supplementary estimates be supported;
- (ii) lessons learned from this scheme be shared for other potential schemes.

260 COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY(SC52)

Members views were sought on the revised Communications and Community

Engagement Strategy 2007 - 2010. Members supported the Strategy.

RESOLVED – the Communications and Community Engagement Strategy be endorsed.

261 DIRECTION OF TRAVEL DRAFT SELF ASSESSMENT 2007 (SC53)

The Scrutiny Commission was provided with the Council's Direction of Travel Statement for 2007. It was reported that the Authority's rate of improvement was higher than the average for other Councils, and over half of the performance indicators were in the top quartile. Members were pleased with the improvement in performance, particularly given the Authority's comparatively low Council Tax.

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed.

262 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2007/2008 (SC54)

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2007/2008. It was agreed that the dates of the meetings scheduled for 22 November 2007 and 14 February 2008 be changed.

RESOLVED – the work programme be noted with additions as agreed at this meeting.

263 CABINET FORWARD PLAN (SC55)

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.

Mrs Camamile left the meeting at 8.43pm.

264 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES / SCRUTINY PANELS

RESOLVED – the following minutes be received:

- (i) Finance & Audit Services Select Committee – 13 August and 24 September 2007 (SC56 and SC57);
- (ii) Housing Task Group – 14 August 2007 (SC58);
- (iii) Council Services Select Committee - 16 August 2007 (SC59).

(The meeting closed at 8.13 pm)