

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMISSION
27 MARCH 2008 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman
Mrs R Camamile - Joint Vice-Chairman

Mr JG Bannister, Mr PR Batty, Mr PS Bessant, Mr DM Gould,
Mrs A Hall, Mr DW Inman, Mr C Ladkin, Mr K Nichols, Mr AJ
Smith and Mr R Ward.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.4, Ms WA Moore
also attended the meeting.

Officers in attendance: Mr SJ Atkinson, Mr Michael Brymer, Mr C
Bellavia, Mr M Donovan, Mr M Evans, Mr R Grantham, Miss L Horton, Mrs B
Imison, Mr S Jones, Mr S Kohli, Mr P Langham, Mrs PI Pitt and Mr B Winter.

520 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr JD Cort, Mr KWP
Lynch and Dr JR Moore and the following substitutions authorised in
accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3:-

Mr Inman for Dr Moore
Mr.Ward for Mr Cort.

521 **MINUTES (SC97)**

It was moved by Mr Nichols, seconded by Mrs Hall and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2008 be
confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

522 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this stage.

523 **LOCAL AMBULANCE SERVICE, HINCKLEY AREA**

Three representatives of the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS),
Peter Ripley, Assistant Director of Operations, Robert Walker, General
Manager (Community Relations) and Glenn McPhee (a paramedic) attended
for this item, which had been debated at Council on 26 February 2008.

Mr Ward entered the meeting at 6.35pm.

Outlined to the Commission were the reasons for the ambulance service
introducing revised ambulance provision within the Hinckley area, namely to

bring about an overall increase in the level of service and to meet patient demand. It was emphasised that ambulance provision did not have fixed boundaries and the practice of dynamic allocation operated whereby crews nearest to an emergency would attend. In the event of a number of incidents occurring simultaneously multiple resources would be deployed. It was intended that in future four vehicles would service this area (one ambulance, one full and two part-time fast response vehicles), working in a more flexible need-led way with an additional community paramedic and an additional care practitioner in place where they could be deployed as sole respondents to assess and provide clinical care at the scene.

A lengthy debate ensued with detailed responses provided to Members' questions, following which a Member enquired how the Council might assist the ambulance service in further developing its proposals. In response it was suggested that EMAS would welcome participating in the Scrutiny Commission's forthcoming review of the out of hours service. Additionally Mr Walker expressed the view that his organisation was currently unclear about the Council's partnership working arrangements and indicated that, should resources be available within the ambulance service, steps could be taken to develop joint working between this Authority and the ambulance service.

Raised at the meeting were individual cases involving the ambulance service which had been referred to Members by members of the public and it was agreed that details of these be referred direct to Peter Ripley.

The Chairman thanked the representatives of EMAS for their attendance and, with Members' agreement, indicated that the Commission was fully supportive of measures for closer working arrangements between EMAS and this Council.

Ms WA Moore left the meeting at 7.20pm.

524 BEACON AWARD FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

The Community Safety Manager referred to the recent success of the Council in achieving Beacon Status for succeeding in reducing re-offending by some 16%, in conjunction with other local agencies. Measures being taken to significantly reduce crime would be shared as best practice with other authorities. Highlighted was the effectiveness of partnership working, following which the Chairman paid tribute to the Community Safety Manager and his team for their work in achieving this accolade for the Council.

525 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S STRATEGY INCORPORATING A 'HEAR BY RIGHT' PARTICIPATION ACTION PLAN

Susannah Jordan, an external consultant, attended for this item and together with the Cultural Services Manager gave a presentation to the Commission on this proposed new strategy, which would be considered by Council on 15 April. As a partner on Leicestershire's Children's Board this Council had agreed the vision of 'Voice, Choice, Safety and Fulfilment' asked for by children and young people in the County. Outlined to Members were the statutory requirements of the Authority under the Children Act 2004, and the

commitment to achieve the emerging status of the Hear by Right Standards by March 2009. Complementing the Strategy was a participation Action Plan which addressed how the Hear by Right standard would be achieved.

On the motion of Mr Lay, seconded by Mr Nichols it was

RECOMMENDED – the adoption of the new Children and Young People’s Strategy and the recommendations included in the ‘Hear by Rights’ participation Action Plan be supported for onward submission to Council.

Messrs Gould and Smith left the meeting at 7.40pm.

526 OUT OF HOURS HEALTH CARE PROVISION (SC99)

The Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services referred Members to the findings of the Citizens Panel that the topic of most concern which the public wished the Scrutiny Commission to examine was that of the provision of health services within the Borough. As part of this review the Commission was now requested to include in its work programme for 2008/09 Out of Hours GP Access as an external partnership review.

Messrs Gould and Smith returned to the meeting at 7.43pm.

The Commission was asked to consider the results of the 2007 GP patient survey ‘Your Doctor, Your Experience, Your Say’ as a first step in scoping the review. The results indicated that generally people were satisfied with their GP availability and services. Those dissatisfied indicated that they would want surgeries to open later in the evening and have Saturday opening.

The Chairman reminded Members of the willingness of EMAS to be included in this review. The County PCT would address issues involving out of hours provision and a representative of the PCT would be invited to a future Commission meeting to discuss the Community Health Service and plans for Hinckley Hospital walk-in units. In the interim it was agreed that the Citizens Panel be advised that the findings of the patient survey had been most encouraging and that GPs should be congratulated on people’s overall satisfaction with their services. It was moved by Mr Lay, seconded by Mrs Camamile and

RESOLVED – the Scrutiny Commission

- i) examines the current patient view on Hinckley & Bosworth Borough GP services in comparison to the perspective across Leicestershire and Rutland;
- ii) develops a work plan to address any issues/concerns identified from this comparison; and
- iii) agrees the terms of reference set out in the report of the Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services for conducting the review.

527 REVIEW OF CAR PARKING AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN SERVICES (SC100)

Further to minute number 477 of 19 February 2008 presented to Members for approval were the proposed terms of reference for the above. The Head of Business Development and Street Scene Services emphasised that the review would be proportionate, identify areas of greatest need and involve wider partnership working and public consultation. Of concern to some Members was the need to keep ward members fully informed of parking enforcement issues within their area and it was agreed that figures be provided of fixed penalty notices issued in the report to the next meeting.

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

RESOLVED –

- i) the terms of reference contained in section 3.5 of the report of the Head of Business Development and Street Scene Services for the current review of car parking and neighbourhood warden services be approved; and
- ii) a further report on this review be presented to the Commission meeting on 1 May 2008.

528 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) SUBSIDY 2008/09 (SC101)

Further to minute number 500 of 26 February 2008 the Director of Finance informed Members of the operation of the HRA subsidy and the impact of this on the Council's HRA in 2008/09. The Director of Finance highlighted the announcement of a joint review by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Treasury of the reform of the current HRA subsidy regime but indicated that details of this review had not yet emerged publicly. The Director of Finance also advised on the national joint initiative being undertaken by a number of Housing Authorities to positively influence the outcome of this review.

The Commission being fully in favour of the national joint initiative proposed to positively influence the review by CLG and the Treasury it was moved by Mr Lay, seconded by Mr Bessant and

RESOLVED –

- i) the information contained in the report of the Director of Finance be noted; and
- ii) the national joint initiative to make representation to Central Government on the review of the HRA subsidy system be supported.

529 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS) 2008/09 TO 2011/12 (SC102)

Further to minute number 496 of 26 February 2008 the Commission was requested to consider and approve the above. The Finance and Audit Services Select Committee had been satisfied with the current content of this rolling document but, in its consideration of flexible working arrangements by staff, had expressed the view that a task and finish group should be created to examine this in detail and report back to the Scrutiny Commission.

There then followed a presentation to Members on

- The development of Florence House
- Budget implications
- Flexible working
- Partnered development

Mr Ward left the meeting at 8.40pm, returning at 8.42pm.

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

RESOLVED –

- i) the medium term financial strategy be noted; and
- ii) a cross party (political ratio = 3:2:1) task and finish group be established to look in detail at proposed flexible working arrangements and report its findings to the Scrutiny Commission meeting on 12 June 2008.

530 CONSULTATION RESULTS – CITIZENS PANEL SURVEY – WINTER 2007 (SC103)

The Committee received details of the survey undertaken in January 2008 and of key messages that could inform the future direction of Council policy and service delivery. In response to a question from the Chairman regarding interface with participants the Head of Business Development and Street Scene Services referred to recent meetings with focus groups and on the intention to develop face-to-face meetings. Following a question regarding the kitchen waste trial in Burbage the Head of Business Development and Street Scene Services undertook to convey the information sought direct to the Member concerned.

The Chairman paid tribute to the valuable work of the Citizens Panel, which shaped the working of the Commission, after which it was moved by Mr Nichols, seconded by Mr Bessant and

RESOLVED – the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Business Development and Street Scene Services be endorsed, particularly

- i) noting the correlation in overall results with analysis by gender and ethnic origin; and
- ii) agreeing that the results will be considered in conjunction with the development of business delivery plans to improve service delivery satisfaction levels and to incorporate equality and geographical issues highlighted.

531 LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (LSP) – UPDATE (SC104)

In providing this update to Members the Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services referred to the outcomes of the away day on 29 February. Four priorities (paragraph 4.1 of the report of the Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services) had been identified to focus on over the next two years, and supporting these was a cross-cutting theme to bring about a fully-integrated approach.

Reference was made to the workings of the LSP and NATS and the need to develop their respective targets. The Chief Executive referred to the two stages of the LSP, namely the setting of four priorities and core activities and the development of more specific targets and to the underpinning of these by community engagement. The Chief Executive indicated that the long-term intention was to provide greater focus and embed something more definitive but in the meantime any Members who had concerns about the current arrangements should contact the Deputy Chief Executive or the Director of Planning and Community Services.

The Commission agreed that the information now provided be received.

532 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09 (SC105)

In introducing this, the Chairman reiterated the intention of EMAS to feed into the review of out-of-hours healthcare provision.

Consideration having been given to the Work Programme it was agreed that the details be noted.

533 FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS (SC107)

Members received the above.

534 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES

The following were noted:-

- i) Finance and Audit Services Committee – 4 February 2008
- ii) Council Services Select Committee – 7 February 2008.

(The meeting closed at 9.11pm)