

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

12 FEBRUARY 2009 AT 6.30 PM

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

Mr PR Batty, Mr DM Gould, Mrs A Hall, Mr DW Inman, Mr CG Joyce, Mr C Ladkin, Dr JR Moore, Mr K Morrell, Mr K Nichols, Mrs S Sprason and Mrs B Witherford.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mrs T Darke, Miss L Horton, Mr S Kohli, Miss R Owen, Mr TM Prowse and Mrs S Stacey.

Colin Roxborough from Bentley-Jennison and Andy Wright from CI Research were in attendance.

399 MINUTES (SC64)

Contrary to the minutes, Mr Hall stated that he did not leave the meeting at 7.13pm. On the motion of Mrs Camamile, seconded by Mr Nichols, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2009 be confirmed subject to the above amendment and signed by the Chairman.

400 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

401 HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGETS (SC65)

The Scrutiny Commission received a report which provided further information as requested at its meeting on 16 October 2008 with regard to the issues in respect of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Capital and Revenue budgets in 2007/08. Members were advised of the progress in respect of the recommendations made at the meeting on 16 October.

Dr Moore arrived at 6.34pm and Mr Gould arrived at 6.42pm.

It was reported that a back-to-basics approach had been taken, reverting to a robust paper-based system of monitoring with a dedicated member of staff to do this. It was felt that this level of monitoring should have been undertaken from the start of the contract.

Members requested an update on the progress of the interface and schedule of rates. It was agreed that this would be sent to Members when available.

Mr Ladkin arrived at 7.05pm.

Members again asked to be informed when the end costs resulting from the issues and investigations were known. It was stated that this would be brought to the Council Services Select Committee when available.

RESOLVED –

- (i) An update on the progress of the interface and Schedule of Rates be provided to Members when available;
- (ii) A report on the final costs resulting from this issue be presented to the Council Services Select Committee when available;
- (iii) A report on the performance of the Inspace Partnership be brought to the Scrutiny Commission every six months;
- (iv) The need for these reports on the Inspace Partnership to the Scrutiny Commission be reviewed in March 2010.

402 PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT APPEAL DECISIONS (SC66)

Members received a report which informed them of the Planning and Enforcement appeal determinations which had been made contrary to the decision of the Local Planning Authority.

Some Members felt that whilst they had been elected to represent the well-being of the community, they were unable to make decisions at Planning Committee which reflected this due to the national and local policies in place. Members were reminded that local policies had to acknowledge national policies, but were agreed by Members of this Council. It was pointed out that a productive workshop with Members of the Planning Committee had taken place earlier in the municipal year, but it was felt that further discussion was needed with regard to this particular issue, probably by means of a further workshop.

RESOLVED –

- (i) Planning Committee be RECOMMENDED to look at the issues raised with regard to following national and local policies;
- (ii) the report be noted.

403 ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY – FINAL REPORT – CI RESEARCH (SC67) AND ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY (SC68)

Members received the final report prepared by CI research which helped to inform and scope the Anti Poverty Strategy for Hinckley and Bosworth, and also the Council's draft Anti Poverty Strategy. Andy Wright from CI Research presented his report and was available to answer questions. He highlighted important points as strong and responsive leadership, a strong LSP and an understanding of local communities.

Concern was expressed that the strategy may lack direction, but it was confirmed that the aim of the strategy was to pull together the agencies to coordinate work being undertaken and the strategy was an overall framework affecting other projects rather than being the project itself.

It was suggested that 'poverty implications' be included on the committee report template and that a Member 'Poverty Champion' be appointed.

It was reported that an action plan would be drawn up with input from the stakeholders. It was agreed that this be brought to the Commission in three months.

Mr Batty left the meeting at 8.15pm.

Members were asked to feed any comments and information on any initiatives to the Head of Corporate and Scrutiny Services.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the Action Plan be brought to the Scrutiny Commission in 3 months' time;
- (ii) the report be noted.

404 COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES REVIEW (SC69)

Members were provided with feedback regarding the outcomes from the Community Health Services Review consultation. It was reported that the Scrutiny Commission had been put forward as a consultee in future consultation exercises.

Mr Ladkin left the meeting at 8.18pm. Mr Batty returned at 8.19pm.

With regard to the out of hours healthcare services offered, Members expressed concern that these were not well publicised, particularly for those people who rarely went to their Doctor's Surgery. It was suggested that this information be put into the Borough Bulletin.

Concern was raised with regard to travel and it was requested that the PCT be asked to ensure the turning circle for buses inside the hospital site was implemented at phase 2 or sooner.

RESOLVED –

- (i) Information with regard to the out of hours health services offered be published in the Borough Bulletin;
- (ii) Concern be conveyed to the PCT with regard to the implementation of the turning circle for buses
- (iii) The report be noted.

405 HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP: END OF YEAR UPDATE ON THE PARTNERSHIP (SC70)

The Scrutiny Commission was provided with an end of year update on performance and achievements of the Hinckley and Bosworth Community Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

406 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2008/09 AND 2009/10 (SC71)

Members gave consideration to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2008/09.

Mr Ladkin returned at 8.27pm.

The Chairman reported that he had received a request for the Scrutiny Commission to look into the LDF process. Reports were also requested with regard to the effect of the restructure of the community and voluntary sector, services for older people and how these can be improved and affordable housing in rural areas. It was suggested that the latter may involve a larger piece of work and a working group to be set up.

RESOLVED – the Work Programme be agreed with the abovementioned additions and those noted elsewhere in these minutes.

407 FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS (SC72)

Members received the Forward Plan of Executive and Council decisions.

RESOLVED – the Forward Plan be noted.

408 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) Finance & Audit Services Select Committee, 22 December 2008 (SC73);
- (ii) Barwell & Earl Shilton Scrutiny Working Group, 26 January 2009 (SC74).

(The meeting closed at 8.32 pm)

CHAIRMAN