

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

18 JUNE 2009 AT 6.30 PM

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

Mrs S Francks, Mr DM Gould, Mrs A Hall, Mr C Ladkin, Mr K Morrell and Mrs BM Witherford.

Messrs DC Bill and SL Bray were in attendance as invitees to item 7 on the agenda.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mr Michael Brymer, Mr B Cullen, Mr M Evans, Miss L Horton, Mr SD Jones, Mr S Kohli, Mr D Moore, Ms M O'Hagan, Miss R Owen and Mr TM Prowse.

38 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr CG Joyce and Mrs S Sprason.

39 MINUTES (SC1)

On the motion of Mr Hall, seconded by Mrs Witherford, it was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2009 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

41 EXTENDED SERVICES STRATEGY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE FOR HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH (SC2)

The new Locality Extended Services for Children & Young People Strategy for Hinckley & Bosworth was presented to the Commission, which had been developed in liaison with a range of partnership organisations and presented through the Local Strategic Partnership and explained the local approach to improving outcomes and access to services for children and young people up to the age of 19.

Mr Gould arrived at 6.42pm.

Members asked how the service would be monitored and progress measured, and in response it was stated that the locality partnership had set up a performance framework. Members asked for a progress report in early 2010 to look at progress against outcomes.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the report be endorsed;
- (ii) a progress report be provided in March 2009.

42 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council were in attendance to answer questions posed by Members of the Scrutiny Commission with regard to the strategies and direction of the Administration.

Messrs Bill and Bray left the meeting at 7.35pm.

43 HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME OVERSPEND 2007/08 COST OF INVESTIGATIONS AND MITIGATING MEASURES (SC7)

This report was prepared to follow up the Scrutiny Commission's review of the HRA overspend. It outlined costs of the investigation and mitigation measures put in place following identification of the overspend. It was explained that 'opportunity costs' referred to time spent on the issue by officers, which was additional work and did not take time away from other projects. The majority of work had been funded from other budgets and savings in the HRA revenue programme.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

44 UPDATE OF CAPITAL PROJECTS (SC8)

Members were advised of progress made with regard to the Atkins Development, Council Offices relocation, Bus Station Development, Hinckley Club for Young People, the Leisure Centre and the sporting hub.

The Atkins Development

It was noted that the initial repairs had been completed and the building was now weathertight and it was anticipated that work on the car park would be brought forward and the car park would be opened to coincide with the Christmas Lights switch-on.

Council Offices

Officers reported that they hoped to move some staff into the top floor Goddard building as anchor tenants on a temporary basis, with capacity for 145 workstations. A longer term solution would then be needed, particularly when the current lease on Florence House expired.

### Bus Station

It was stated that the development agreement for the bus station had been finalised and the design had been worked up in more detail. Pre-application events with residents and businesses would soon be taking place with a completion date for the entire project of 2014. Members felt that progress on plans for the bus station should be publicised more so the public were aware that progress was being made.

### Hinckley Club for Young People

Members were reminded that planning permission had been granted on 5 May and after commencing the tender process discussions were now underway with the preferred contractor. It was explained that of the £5.7m budget, £4.5m would come from central government My Place funding with the remainder provided by the Borough Council.

### Sporting Hub

Ambitious plans for a possible sporting hub alongside the A47 were shown with a wide range of facilities including an athletics track and velodrome, which were endorsed by Members.

### Leisure Centre

Due to the re-assessment of the capital programme, it was explained that the decision had been taken to allocate a sum of £560,000 to maintaining and improving the current Leisure Centre, particularly to improve the customer facing areas. It was anticipated that works would commence in September/October 2009 and that the facility would remain open throughout.

RESOLVED – the report and progress made on projects be noted.

## 45 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT AND CORPORATE PLANNING FRAMEWORK (SC3)

Members were provided with the Council's end of year performance position for 2008/09. Members asked if the figures could be compared to the best performing authority in the country and look in more detail at their processes.

Mr Gould left the meeting at 8.26pm and returned at 8.29pm.

RESOLVED – the report be noted.

46 RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – END OF YEAR REPORT 2008/09 (SC4)

The Scrutiny Commission was advised of progress made to manage strategic and operational risks and the development of the Council's risk management arrangements.

RESOLVED –

- (i) the Strategic Risk Register be endorsed as an accurate account of the current strategic risks facing the authority;
- (ii) the Risk Management Implementation Plan 2008/09 be endorsed.

47 STREET CLEANSING REVIEW (SC5)

Members were provided with the final report and proposals to improve the Street Cleansing Service. Members were informed that officers would engage with parishes to identify problem areas and to share rotas so they knew when streets in the parish were being cleaned.

A Member expressed concern with regard to the lack of cleanliness in some unadopted roads and asked if anything could be done about this. In response it was stated that the contract only covered public adopted roads. Members were supportive of the review's conclusions and proposals.

Mrs Francks left the meeting at 8.39pm and returned at 8.42pm.

RESOLVED – the findings of the review be endorsed.

48 EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MASTERPLANNING CONSULTANTS (SC6)

Members were informed of the successful bids for funding towards the sustainable urban extensions for Barwell and Earl Shilton and the Masterplanning Consultant selection. It was explained that the Local Strategic Partnership maintained ownership of the project and key agencies were engaged. In response to a Member's concerns it was stated that the Barwell and Earl Shilton Scrutiny Group would monitor the project.

RESOLVED – the report be noted and recommendations be endorsed.

49 NHS INFORMATION PAPER (SC9)

Further to the Scrutiny Commission's input into the PCT's Community Healthcare review, Members were reminded that the NHS had agreed to now use the Scrutiny Commission as a consultee. An information paper was therefore presented to the Commission to spread awareness of a change to the continence product supply arrangements taking effect in October 2009.

50 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09 AND WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10 (SC10)

Members received the draft Annual Report for 2008/09.

RESOLVED – the Annual Report be agreed.

With regard to the draft work programme for 2009/10, it was suggested that LAA2 targets for sport, review of Council Procedure Rules (Constitution), and equalities be included in the work programme. Possible reviews for the year were discussed, including older people, public transport, the GP referral scheme and parking. It was recommended that the topics of Older People and Public Transport should be the two priority areas for review.

RESOLVED – the work programme be agreed and the areas of Older People and Public Transport be reviewed.

51 FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS (SC11)

Members received the Forward Plan of Executive and Council decisions.

RESOLVED – the Forward Plan be noted.

52 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES

Minutes of the Finance & Audit Services Select Committee held on 29 April 2009 (SC12) were received.

(The meeting closed at 9.05 pm)