

HINCKLEY & BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

28 OCTOBER 2010 AT 6.30 PM

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

Mr JG Bannister, Mr PR Batty, Mr DM Gould, Mrs A Hall, Mr DW Inman, Mr K Nichols, Mrs S Sprason, Mr BE Sutton and Ms BM Witherford.

Officers in attendance: Mr S Atkinson, Mr Michael Brymer, Mr M Evans, Mr S Kohli, Mr P Langham, Miss R Owen, Mrs S Stacey and Ms J Sturley.

277 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs Joyce and Ladkin.

278 MINUTES (SC39)

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

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2010 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

279 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

280 UPDATE ON WINTER GRITTING REVIEW (SC40)

Members were provided with an update on the joint plans for winter gritting arrangements within the Borough of Hinckley and Bosworth for the financial year 2010/11.

It was explained that if there was availability amongst internal teams, HBBC would act as agent for the service, but responsibility for gritting would remain with Leicestershire County Council. It was believed that the county council would be meeting with parish council representatives to prioritise routes, and Members asked to see the list of these, but those Members who were also parish councillors expressed concern that the meetings had not taken place. It was requested that the county council be formally requested to hold these meetings as soon as possible, which the Chief Executive agreed to do.

RESOLVED –

- (i) a list of prioritised gritting routes be provided to Members;
- (ii) concerns with regard to the delay in contacting parish councils be communicated to Leicestershire County Council.

281 COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (SC41)

The Scrutiny Commission was updated on the performance of the Community Safety Partnership, and current challenges and successes. It was noted that there had been an overall reduction in crime and several successful antisocial behaviour interventions had been carried out.

Current challenges included dealing with the usual pre-Christmas increase in burglary and theft, increasing public satisfaction, and the possible decrease or end of the area based grant and police funding. Successes of the partnership were highlighted as the reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour, the publication of antisocial behaviour minimum standards within the set timescales, improving internal procedures for dealing with antisocial behaviour, the continuation of the multi-agency action group (Joint Action Group), the forthcoming campaigns, the new communications strategy, youth projects and sessions in schools.

A Member stated that representatives of the partnership attended his local community safety forum, and suggested that other local forums may wish to extend an invitation. The Chief Officer (Housing, Community Safety & Partnerships) agreed to discuss this suggestion with the Executive Board.

In response to a Member's question, it was stated that the possible impact of budget cuts on local service and in particular PCSOs was not known.

282 HANSOM CAB / TANTIVY STAGECOACH UPDATED (SC42)

Further to a request of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen, a report was provided which advised Members of the current condition of the Hansom Cab and Tantivy Stagecoach which were kept at the Hinckley Island Hotel. It was reported that whilst the current accommodation was in need of some repairs, the vehicles were in good condition and had deteriorated very little since the previous inspection.

Members discussed a few options for re-siting the vehicles but felt that they could not discuss properly without knowing possible costs of moving, restoration and providing a suitable building. These details were requested for circulation. However it was also noted that the current location was suitable and should not be changed at this time.

Mr Nichols left the meeting at 7.51pm.

283 WEST LEICESTERSHIRE AND NORTHERN WARWICKSHIRE CROSS-BORDER DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP (SC43)

The Scrutiny Commission received a report which informed Members of a proposal that had been submitted to Government in respect of a partnership for the development and delivery of cross-border enterprise activity covering the areas of Hinckley & Bosworth, Nuneaton & Bedworth and North Warwickshire. It was reported that notification had now been received that of the 56 proposals for Local Enterprise Partnerships, 24 had been agreed, including Leicester & Leicestershire and Coventry & Warwickshire. A letter had also been received acknowledging and welcoming the proposal for a cross-border delivery partnership and offering support in developing plans for this.

Members were very supportive of a cross-border partnership and the opportunity to break down barriers with neighbouring authorities in the West Midlands.

Mr Nichols returned to the meeting at 7.58pm.

284 MEMBERS' ICT

The Scrutiny Commission was informed of the discussion held by members of the Executive on 19 August in response to the Commission's recommendation for the future of the Members' ICT project. It was reported that the Executive felt that the project be allowed to continue and the decision for future roll-out of IT equipment be revisited at the first Council meeting after May 2011.

285 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2010/11 (SC44)

Members received the Work Programme for 2010/11. An update was provided on the two working groups that were currently being set up, and additional members were requested for the Public Transport working group. It was agreed that the timetable for the review would be added into the work programme after the first meeting of the working group. Reports on the Atkins development, Greenfields and the Comprehensive Spending Review were also agreed for the following meeting.

RESOLVED – the work programme be agreed with the abovementioned inclusions.

286 FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS (SC45)

Members received the Forward Plan of Executive and Council decisions.

RESOLVED – the Forward Plan be noted.

287 MINUTES OF SELECT COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

The minutes of the following meetings were received:

- (i) Finance & Audit Services Select Committee, 20 September 2010 (SC46);
- (ii) Council Services Select Committee, 30 September 2010 (SC47).

(The meeting closed at 8.07 pm)