

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMISSION

19 JANUARY 2012 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Mr MR Lay - Chairman
Mr PAS Hall and Mr C Ladkin – Vice-Chairman

Mr PR Batty, Mrs WA Hall, Mrs L Hodgkins, Mr DW Inman, Mr K Morrell and Miss DM Taylor

Diane Cook (Rural Community Council); John Preston (Energy Best Deal); Diane Smith (Alzheimer's Society) and Howard Wilkins (Burbage Parish Council) were also in attendance for the items on the Scrutiny Reviews.

Officers in attendance: Steve Atkinson, Louisa Horton, Alison Ker, Sharon Stacey, Judith Sturley, Clive Taylor and Simon Wood

331 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Mr Bessant, Mr Nichols and Mrs Sprason, with the substitution of Mr Moore for Mrs Sprason authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.1.

332 MINUTES

It was

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2011 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

333 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

334 ECONOMIC REGENERATION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Members were updated on work undertaken to meet the targets of the Economic Regeneration Strategy Action Plan 2009 – 2014. The main areas of work were outlined as well as future work planned, and the strategic objectives to which each activity related were also highlighted.

Members raised concern regarding a local company sending staff outside of the Borough for training, the risk of businesses in the SUEs having to recruit from outside of the Borough, and the requirement for an increase in the level of employment that had not been achieved in the Borough throughout the last ten years. It was suggested that the issue of building relationships between industry and colleges in the Borough be built into the Scrutiny Commission's work programme for 2012/13.

It was noted that discussions were also taking place, or would shortly be commenced, with regard to Regent Street, Stockwell Head, the Britannia Centre and the Cultural Quarter.

RESOLVED – the report be endorsed.

335 SCRUTINY REVIEW: CARE OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Diana Smith, Locality Manager from the Alzheimer's Society Leicestershire gave a presentation on dementia which included background information such as definitions and types of dementia, the work undertaken by the Society, current projects and schemes, links with other organisations, and future aims. Members had the opportunity to ask questions to further their understanding of the disease to enable them to support the review.

Howard Wilkins, a local Parish Councillor who had personal experience of supporting family members with dementia, outlined his experience and concerns to provide a different perspective to the Commission.

The two attendees were thanked for their contributions and Members felt that the information received would assist them in preparing questions for future witnesses as part of the Commission's review.

336 SCRUTINY REVIEW: FUEL POVERTY

Diana Cook and John Preston from the Rural Community Council attended the meeting to present information on the Energy Best Deal scheme. Members received advice on switching fuel providers, rules to standardise energy tariffs, the winter fuel allowance, social tariffs and priority services registers and home insulation schemes.

Mr Batty left the meeting at 8.29pm.

Officers reported that work to map fuel poverty was ongoing and that maps showing this would be brought to the next meeting. With regard to the attendance of witnesses at future meetings, the Commission was informed that invitations had been sent but that only one energy provider had agreed to attend.

337 ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEMBER DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

Members received a report which informed them of member development activity since the last update along with planned activity. The Commission was informed that the Member Development Steering Group had supported working towards the East Midlands Councillor Development Charter and that a Member Development Strategy had now been drafted.

A Member asked whether Member training was publicly advertised and whether it was open to Parish Councillors. In response it was reported that training was not open to the public, but that invitations to training events were extended to parish councils where appropriate, and that joint working across organisations and different tiers of local government would reflect well in achieving the Councillor Development Charter.

338 SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2011-12

Consideration was given to the Scrutiny Commission's work programme for the remainder of 2011/12. It was highlighted that there were a number of witnesses for the 'care of people with dementia' review who had confirmed their attendance at the following meeting. Amongst these was the Manager of a local care home who had requested advance notice of the types of questions that would be asked of her. It was anticipated that these would cover the scope of care provided, how her care home compared to others, and how the home was funded.

Following a discussion earlier in the meeting, it was also requested that next year's work programme includes work to identify how the authority would be able to champion the skills agenda for economic growth.

339 FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE AND COUNCIL DECISIONS

Members received the latest published copy of the Forward Plan of Executive and Council decisions. It was reported that the Value for Money report and the Green Space delivery plan would be considered at the meeting on 1 March.

(The Meeting closed at 8.43 pm)

CHAIRMAN