

## SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 19 JULY 2005

Present: Councillor Smalley (in the Chair)  
Councillors Ahern, Bayliss, Graves, Hussain, Jones, Lowe,  
MacDonald, Repton, Troup and West.

In attendance: Councillor Wynn and Councillor E Berry

### 15/05 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

### 16/05 Late items introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100 (B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit an item relating to a proposed topic review to be undertaken by the Community Regeneration Commission on the grounds that the Commission wished to commence the topic review before the next scheduled meeting of this Commission. The Chair also agreed to admit an item relating to "I am a Councillor get me out of here" on the grounds that arrangements for the event needed to be commenced before the next scheduled meeting of the Commission.

### 17/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 18/05 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 19/05 Call-In

There had been no call in of a decision.

### Items for Discussion

### 20/05 Overview and Scrutiny Objectives and Work Planning for 2005/6

The Commission considered a minute extract from the Community Regeneration Commission which had selected "Review of the Housing Allocations Policy" as the Commission's next topic review.

**Resolved to approve “Review of the Housing Allocations Policy” as the Community Regeneration Commission’s next topic review.**

## **21/05 I am a Councillor Get Me Out of Here**

Councillor E Berry reported that an event called ‘I am a Councillor get me Out of Here’ was being arranged to help engage young people in democracy in the City. She was seeking a financial contribution that would be used for publicity and to purchase CD tokens for young people who took part in the event. Councillor Wynn spoke in favour of the proposal.

**Resolved to approve an allocation of £300 from the Commission’s budget towards the event “I am a Councillor get me out of here”.**

## **22/05 Overview and Scrutiny Conference**

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services which stated that the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Scrutiny Officer Network had been established to share good practice and provide support to Officers involved in Overview and Scrutiny. The network which is intended to further partnership working has the backing of the leaders and Chief Executives of local authorities in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordination Officers from Derby played an active role in the network whose membership included 19 local authorities. The Officer network had agreed to organise a conference which would focus on the practical rather than theoretical aspects of overview and scrutiny. The event was to be held on 29 September 2005 at the Ringwood Hall in Brimington near Chesterfield and would cater for approximately 100 delegates. A programme of events was being drawn up. The Commission was asked to approve a contribution of £500 towards the cost of the event. In return for the contribution the Council would be entitled to send five delegates to the Conference. The expenditure would be contained within the existing Overview and Scrutiny budgets.

**Resolved to approve Derby’s contribution of £500 towards the cost of organising a conference focussing on the practical aspects of Overview and Scrutiny.**

## **23/05 Portfolios of Overview and Scrutiny Commissions**

**Resolved to defer this item.**

## **24/05 Performance Eye**

At it’s meeting on 7 June 2005 the Commission had resolved to have Performance Eye as a standing item on Commission agendas. To assist the Commission in this aspect of it’s work, the Co-ordination team asked the Strategic Planning and Performance Unit for information about performance indicators which were available through Performance Eye. The Co-ordination team also asked Chief Officers for details of performance indicators for which their departments routinely collect information. The Planning and Performance Unit provided information set out in the report.

In response to the Co-ordination team's request for detail on all performance indicators for which information is collected, the Director of Education had provided a comprehensive list and the Director of Commercial Services confirmed that his department did not collect information on any additional indicators. Social Services department had also provided a list of performance assessment framework (PAF) indicators. Some Chief Officers were however concerned about the timescale of the request and about the sheer volume of information which is collected.

At its meeting on 7 June 2005 the Commission also resolved to request reports from Chief Officers on red performance indicators as a matter of course. Paul Dransfield, Director of Finance, gave an explanation of BV157, the Number of Interactions that were enabled by Electronic Delivery and BV8, the percentage of invoices paid within 30 days. Ed Cicinski explained about BV16a, the percentage of employees declaring that they met DDA and about BV2b the duty to promote race equality.

**Resolved to request Chief Officers to bring back reports in six months to see progress on improvements and for the Commission to then decide what to do if there were still difficulties with these areas.**

## Responses of the Council Cabinet to any Reports of the Commission

### 25/05 Forward Plan

The Commission considered a minute extract from Council Cabinet held on 12 July 2005 which stated that additional information would be included in the Forward Plan to explain what a particular report covered and the Chair of Council Cabinet would discuss the issues further with the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Commission.

**Resolved to note the report.**

### 26/05 Overview and Scrutiny Objectives and Work Planning 2005/6

The Commission considered a minute extract from Council Cabinet held on 12 July 2005 which noted that Cabinet Members would have a standing invitation to Scrutiny Commission pre-agenda meetings.

**Resolved to note the report.**

### 26/05 Best Value Performance Plan 2005-2008

The Commission considered a minute extract from Council Cabinet held on 12 July 2005 which noted that a report of the Community Regeneration Commission would be considered at the next meeting relating to their topic review on consultation.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 27/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission considered the Council Cabinet Forward Plan for August 2005.

**Resolved to request the following item 106/04 – Land at the Former Baseball Ground be considered at the Commission at the most appropriate time.**

## Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

### 28/05 Internal Audit – Annual Report on Progress in 2004/5

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Finance which had been approved by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 12 July 2005 which set out the 2004/5 annual internal audit plan and the progress made on that plan. The report had been referred to this Commission for information.

**Resolved to note the report.**

### 29/05 Progress on Developing the Council's Priorities, Corporate Plan and Budget for 2006-9

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Finance which had been considered at the Council Cabinet at its meeting on 12 July 2005 and had been referred to this Commission for information and comments.

**Resolved to note the report.**

Chair of the next ensuing meeting  
at which these minutes were signed