

ITEM 4

Time commenced - 5.00 pm

Time finished - 6.40 pm

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 24 JANUARY 2006

Present: Councillor Graves (in the Chair)
Councillors Ahern, Allen, Higginbottom, Jackson, Jones, Latham,
MacDonald, Travis and Turner.

Also present: Councillors Leeming and Roberts

78/05 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hickson and Smalley.

79/05 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were 3 late items introduced by the Chair.

- a) A Petition from the Friends of Derby's Museums and Art Gallery in relation to proposals to close Pickford House Museum to casual visitors and alter the opening hours of the Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand and The Industrial Museum, The Silk Mill.

The Commission received a petition signed by over 2000 people. It was noted that the Culture and Prosperity Commission had already discussed the petition at length the previous evening.

Resolved to forward the petition to the relevant Cabinet Member.

- b) Draft Revenue Budget – Comments from other Commissions

This report was considered with the draft Revenue Budget report (minute number 86/05 a refers)

- c) Capital Budget 2006/7 to 2008/9

This report was also considered in conjunction with the draft Revenue Budget report (minute 86/05 refers)

80/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

81/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

82/05 Call-In

There had been no call in of a decision.

Items for Discussion

83/05 Performance Eye

It was noted that there were no particular changes to the Performance Eye indicators.

Councillor Higginbottom queried why the figure for disabled people access was a negative trend. Officers reported that this was mainly due to the closure of some of the Council's Housing Offices which had been adapted to meet the requirements of disabled people.

Resolved to note the report.

84/05 Corporate Plan

The Commission received a report from the Director of Resources which updated the Commission on the Council's vision, objectives and priorities for 2006-09.

Councillor Travis queried whether the Scrutiny Management Commission's comments detailed in the minutes of the 13 December 2005 had been included in the revised proposals. Heather Greenan agreed to try to incorporate the Commission's views in the narrative for each priority.

Councillor Travis requested that the priority detailed in the first objective which states 'To reinvigorate the City Centre and river areas' be amended to read 'To reinvigorate the City Centre and the historical and river areas'

Councillor Travis requested the removal of the priority which stated 'to minimise Council tax levels...' but Councillor Higginbottom felt that this was a clear reflection of one of the Council's priorities and should remain.

The Chair expressed concerns that the Council's visions for economic growth were not adequately reflected in the Council's objectives and priorities and felt that this should be included as a specific High Level objective.

Resolved to request that the Scrutiny Management Commission's recommendations be incorporated into the Corporate Plan and that a specific High Level Objective be developed to highlight the Council's commitment to economic growth in Derby.

85/05 Retrospective Scrutiny

There had been no items for retrospective scrutiny identified by Members.

Resolved that Members contact the Scrutiny and Complaints Manager with any items for retrospective scrutiny.

86/05

a) Revenue Budget 2006/7 to 2008/9

The Commission received a report from the Director of Resources detailing the Council's proposals for the draft Revenue Budget 2006/7 to 2008/9 within the portfolio of the Scrutiny Management Commission.

The Commission questioned the Cabinet Member for Personnel, Performance Management and Economic Development on the proposals.

Resolved to:

- 1. ask the Cabinet not to make the cut to the Overview and Scrutiny Research Budget of £24,000 as proposed in the draft revenue Budget 2006/7 – 2008/9, as this would send the wrong signal about the value of Overview and scrutiny.**
- 2. congratulate officers for providing detailed documents on the budgets enabling all Councillors to have the opportunity to input to the consultation process effectively**
- 3. thank cabinet members for attending overview and scrutiny commissions during the consultation process.**
- 4. ask Council Cabinet to consider the recommendations made about the draft Revenue Budget by the other five Overview and Scrutiny Commissions**

b) Capital Budget 2006/7 to 2008/9

The Commission received a report from the Director of Resources outlining the Council's Cabinet Budget proposals for 2006/7 to 2008/9.

The Chair felt that the links between the Capital and Revenue Budgets were tenuous and asked whether they could define the Council's objectives more clearly in future. Councillor Roberts agreed to ask officers to investigate this suggestion.

The Commission asked the Director of Resources to consider whether improvements could be made to the presentation of the data to make the information more accessible to people without a financial background.

Resolved to make no formal representations to Cabinet on the Capital Budget.

c) **Comments for other Commissions on the draft Revenue Budget**

The Commission received a report of the Director of Corporate and Adults Social Services detailing comments that had been made by the other overview and scrutiny commissions, during the budget consultation process, for consideration by the Council Cabinet.

Resolved to note the report

87/05 Meetings with Individual Cabinet Members

The Commission received a report from the Chair of the Scrutiny Management Commission on revised proposals for the arrangements for meetings with Individual Cabinet Members. The chair said he had agreed with the Leader and Deputy Leader that except where dates and times had already been agreed with Scrutiny Chairs, these meetings would be held at 4pm.

Resolved to agree the recommendations in the report and to ask the Council Cabinet to endorse them.

88/05 Overview and Scrutiny Commission Reviews.

- a) Review of the Proposals for the reorganisation of the Derbyshire Primary Care Trust - Social Care and Health Commission
- b) Review of Sponsorship and Fundraising to support the Arts and Events programme in Derby – Culture and Prosperity Commission

Resolved to approve these reviews.

89/05 Emergency Planning Progress Report

The Commission received a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services which provided the Commission with the first quarterly update on the Emergency Planning Procedures for Derby.

Resolved to note the report

90/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

Resolved to note the items on the Forward Plan which fall within the Commission's remit.

91/05 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports from this Commission - Police Force Restructure

Resolved to note the Council Cabinet's Response

92/05 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were none.

MINUTES END