

Time commenced – 6.00pm

Time finished – 8.35pm

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 1 FEBRUARY 2011

Present: Councillor Carr (in the Chair)
Councillors Bolton, Dhindsa, Harwood Hussain and F Khan

In attendance Councillors Jennings, Marshall, Redfern and Roberts

79/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker and Davis.

80/10 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

81/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations on interest.

82/10 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

83/10 Call-in

There were no items.

84/10 Councillor Call for Action

There were no items.

85/10 Responses of Council Cabinet to the Reports of this Commission

There were no items.

86/10 Revenue Budget 2011/12 to 2013/14

The Commission considered a report on Scrutiny Management related revenue budget proposals 2011/12 to 2013/14.

Commission members asked about concessionary fares, the grant had been put into the formula fund, but there was shortfall of £2m.

Concern was raised about the review of care homes, and the cost of placements in the private sector. It was reported that detailed reports would be submitted to Council Cabinet and Council.

An explanation was requested of the budget principles 'developing treasury management practices in line with changing conditions in financial markets' and 'increasing capacity to exploit potential procurement savings'. It was reported that in respect of treasury management the Council were looking at ways of getting the best mix of borrowing over varying terms. In procurement, officers were looking at the ways of getting the best prices available and opportunities for efficiencies.

In respect of ICT there needed to be a risk analysis on how to deliver ICT savings.

For customer services, one Derby one Council was customer focussed and customer services were being consolidated. Customers were being directed to self service access where ever possible. This would result in staff reductions and savings through business re-engineering.

An explanation was given of how the budget settlement had front loaded saving requirements and the potential for compulsory redundancies.

It was reported that in respect of audit, options were being explored for a wider cross County audit partnership. Negotiations were underway with two neighbouring authorities to do their managed audits. This would provide an income to the Council.

A member of the Commission asked about the capital costs of land charges. It was rolled up into a programme of ICT development to allow the records to be digitised. The whole transformation programme was reliant on ICT packages.

The existing ICT contract was being reviewed to see if any savings could be achieved but this was reliant on the goodwill of the existing contractor.

In relation to the Chief Executive's office, consideration was being given to market testing the three C's (Cleaning, Saretaking and Catering). The Community Safety Partnership had taken a significant hit in its budget. It was reported that there still was a potential of receiving £250k funding for the Community Safety Partnership. The Council was looking to put the Community Safety Partnership on a firmer footing and maybe bringing it in house. Consideration was being given to possibly merging the Community Safety partnership with Derby City Partnership within the Neighbourhoods directorate.

A question was raised on how much funding partners had withdrawn from the Community Safety Partnership.

It was reported that one Derby one Council savings would be achieved in future years particularly around not moving between buildings once the Council House refurbishment was completed.

An enhanced Voluntary Redundancy and Voluntary Early Retirement scheme had been introduced.

In relation to carbon reduction it was agreed that the Commission should review the Council's carbon reduction commitment.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To request that Council Cabinet note that the Commission endorse the actions being taken to seek contract cost reductions regarding ICT.**
- 3. To review the Council's carbon reduction commitment at the next meeting.**

87/10 Capital Programme 2011/12 to 2013/14

The Commission considered a report on the draft capital programme 2011/12 to 2013/14. It was reported that this year the whole capital programme had been reviewed.

Members of the Commission felt that the Disabled Facilities Grant item was very positive. An explanation of work ongoing to help with the situation at Lees Brook School was given, this included visits to ministers to highlight concerns and try and get funding.

An explanation of the proposed salt barn was given.

Resolved to recommend Council Cabinet to

- 1. note the Commission supported the £2m for emergency works at Lees Brook School as these were essential to keep the school open and reiterate the need to secure central government funding for a full rebuild.**
- 2. note the Commission supported the additional £1m capital allocation to the Disabled Facilities Grant in 2011/12, supported the policy intention of the Leader that DFG be substantially expanded in future years as a welcome invest to save means of reducing the need for residential care and would want to consider the findings at a future meeting.**

88/10 The Derby Plan 2011-26 and Council Plan 2011-14

The Commission received a presentation on the Derby Plan from Hazel Lymbery from Derby City Partnership and the Council Plan from Heather Greenan.

A member of the Commission requested that for each mission a baseline position be established so that progress could be monitored.

Resolved to recommend Council Cabinet to approve and adopt the Derby Plan subject to baseline data being provided for each of the themes and priorities so that future years progress against the starting position in 2011 could be clearly measured.

89/10 Derwent New Deal for Communities

Further to Minute 63/10 of the Commission held on 22 November 2010 and minute 73/10 of the Commission held on 7 December 2010, the Commission considered written responses from GOEM, NHS Derby City, Director of Derwent New Deal for Communities,

the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Chair of the Derwent New Deal for Communities Board in respect of the succession strategy for Derwent New Deal for Communities.

The Chair invited Councillors Roberts and Redfern (Councillors for Derwent Ward) to address the Commission.

Resolved

- 1. To conclude the review at this point.**
- 2. To recommend Council Cabinet that in order to secure the legacy of Derwent New Deal for Communities for local residents, if the Gateway Centre was handed over to Derbyshire Cricket Club all available steps be taken to prevent the future sale of the land for development. These steps should include the protection of current covenants and creation of new ones for enforcement of land planning policy.**

90/10 Forward Plan

There were no items requested.

91/10 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items requested.

92/10 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

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