

Time commenced - 4.00 pm
Time Adjourned - 5.30pm
Time reconvened - 6.00pm
Time Adjourned - 7.25pm
Time reconvened - 7.30pm
Time finished - 8.30 pm

**SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
18 SEPTEMBER 2007**

Present: Councillor Higginbottom (in the Chair)
Councillors Bayliss, Carr, Dhindsa, Ingall, Poulter and Webb

Also in attendance Councillor Marshall

32/07 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jones.

33/07 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items

34/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

35/07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

36/07 Call – In

There were no items called in.

Items for Discussion

37/02 Report on Actions Taken to Deal with Anti Social Behaviour in the Vicinity of the Silk Mill

The Commission considered a report which stated that for a number of years the Silk Mill had suffered from high levels on antisocial behaviour in and around the building. The behaviour included drunk and disorderly behaviour; drug dealing/abuse; graffiti; criminal damage to the building; threats of violence; verbal abuse and firearms incidents. The report outlined steps taken to try and combat the problems.

Resolved

1. **To urge the police to maintain their current level of patrols of Cathedral Green.**
2. **To support the move for signage on the remodelled Cathedral Green, to inform the public of the alcohol free zone.**
3. **To ensure that graffiti is removed promptly from the Silk Mill and its surrounding area.**
4. **To ensure that criminal damage is repaired promptly.**
5. **To support the installation of a mosquito when Cathedral Green has been remodelled.**

38/07 Corporate Asset Management Plan

The Commission considered the draft Corporate Asset Management Plan 2007-10.

Resolved to note the draft Corporate Asset Management Plan 2007-10

39/07 Outcomes of the Review of the Effect of Election Cycles on Voter Turnout

The Commission considered a report which stated that in 2006/07 the Commission conducted a review which aimed to identify ways to increase electoral registration in Derby. The Commission made several recommendations regarding the election process at Derby City Council. As a logical extension of that review the Commission decided to hold a further review to examine the effect a Local Authority's election cycle had on levels of voter turnout. The draft topic review report outlined the research carried out and the results. The Commission was asked whether or not they wanted to recommend to Council that they change the electoral cycle at Derby City Council.

Resolved to thank Ellen Bird for the work involved in preparing the report and defer making a recommendation to Council until all the questionnaire responses had been received from the political parties.

40/07 Petition about Home Care Charges

The Commission received a petition about Home Care Charges

Resolved to received the petition and provide a response to a future meeting.

41/07 Petition concerning the War Memorial

The Commission received a petition concerning the War Memorial. The lead petitioner attended the meeting and addressed the Commission explaining that she was upset by the way that the war memorial was being treated with disrespect, with young people sitting on the steps of the Memorial and litter left as a result and skateboarders damaging the edges on the steps. The Commission also considered a report which gave details of proposals to address some of the issues raised. Council Cabinet at its meeting on 31 July 2007 had allocated £30,000 to pay for works to be carried out to the

War Memorial to deter skateboarders and people sitting on the steps.

It was noted that meetings had taken place with Service representatives and a proposal to put brass studs on the steps had been agreed with the veterans. Since then the Memorial had been listed which meant that listed building consent was now needed to carry out the proposed works.

The Commission made the following comments:

- The memorial needed permanent protection.
- The proposed work should be carried out as soon as possible.
- The police should be asked to move on people who were not behaving appropriately.
- The litter wardens should be asked to pay more attention to the memorial and litter should be removed before any memorial services take place.
- Skateboarders could be told where they can legitimately skateboard in Derby.
- To ask the police to enforce the skateboarding byelaws.
- To improve the signage on the Market Place about skateboarding not being allowed.
- The possibility of erecting a temporary barrier could be investigated but this would also require listed building consent.

Resolved

- 1. To note the actions taken and planned to address the concerns raised by the petition.**
- 2. To report the Commissions comments to Council Cabinet.**

42/07 The Likely Involvement of the Scrutiny Commissions in CPA during October 2007

The Commission considered a report setting out the preparations for the Corporate Assessment.

Resolved to note the report.

43/07 Performance Eye

Items selected to be considered at this meeting are set out in Minutes Nod 44/07, 45/07 and 46/07.

The Commission considered the indicators which fell within the Commission's portfolio.

Resolved to request a report to the next meeting explaining the new system for Performance Eye.

44/07 Report on BV9 and BV10

The Commission considered a report on a review of performance in the Revenues

Service carried out by an independent consultant. Their recommendations to improve service and performance were included in the Performance Action Plans set out in Appendix 2 to the report. In addition Revenues Service Performance in relation to BVPI19 and BVPI10 for 2006/07 had been the subject of a Performance Surgery and an action plan agreed.

Resolved to accept the Performance Actions Plans for BVPI9 and BVPI10.

45/07 Report on BV2a and BV11c

The Commission received a presentation on BV2a – the Equality Standard for Local Government. It was noted that the Council had achieved level 3 of the Equalities Standard following external assessment earlier in the week. We will get an Equality Certificate for this achievement. It was hoped to reach level 4 by March 2009.

On BV11c – the number of disabled people in the top 5% earners – this number was going up all the time, but members felt perhaps we needed to look at the targets we were setting that may be set a little too high.

Resolved to note the report.

46/07 Report on BV127b

The Commission received a presentation on BV127b. The Commission noted details of Operation Everest which had 9 dedicated police officers and an analyst who were tackling crime rates in Derby. Emerging hotspots were being targeted. Derby now had a greater number of drug users accessing treatment than ever before, whilst waiting times for prescribing were the lowest on record. Alcohol had also been shown to increase ones vulnerability to being a victim of robbery, particularly in the city centre.

Resolved to note the presentation.

47/07 Retrospective Scrutiny

No items selected for this meeting.

Resolved to include the Forward Plan as a standard retrospective scrutiny item at future meetings to ensure all reports were reported correctly and within the correct time frames.

48/07 Report on the Implementation of the Revised Fire Regulations and the Requirement for Fire Risk Assessments to be carried out by the Council

The Commission considered a report on the progress the Council had made in relation to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Most of the Council's Health and Safety Advisers and some Property Services Surveyors had undertaken specialised fire training. The nine days of intensive training involved examinations on Fire Risk Assessment, Fire Engineering, Fire Training and Management.

Resolved to note the report.

49/07 Outcome of the Commission Meeting with Helen Osler of Derby City Partnership on 19 July 2007 and Outline of the Consequent Proposals

The Commission considered a report which stated that the Commission at its meeting on 29 May 2007 considered the possible form of its work plan for 2007/08 and in order to explore the possibility of undertaking scrutiny of Derby City Partnership asked the Co-ordination Officer to arrange a meeting with Helen Osler, the Director of the Partnership. The meeting took place on 19 July 2007 and Helen Osler outlined the structure of the Partnership and gave an overview of the implications for the Council of the new Local Area Agreements, the first of which would start in 2008, and of the changes to the powers and responsibilities of local authority overview and scrutiny committees which were outlined in the Local Government White paper on Strong and Prosperous Communities.

The Commission were asked to consider whether they wished to engage in a collaborative project with Derby City Partnership with the objective of determining how best the established principles of Overview and Scrutiny can be integrated into the working of the Partnership.

Resolved to set up a working party comprising Councillors Bayliss, Carr and Webb to meet with DCP and consider the way forward.

50/07 Draft Report to Council Cabinet on the Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Plans for 2007/08

The Commission considered a report which stated that the Council's other five Scrutiny Commissions had now advised this Commission of their proposed work plans for the coming year.

Resolved to recommend Council Cabinet to notify the relevant Commissions of any views or comments that they have on the Commissions' work plans and of any particular issues or areas within those work plans that they would like the Commissions to explore.

51/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission examined the items on the Forward Plan which were relevant to the Commissions remit.

Resolved

- 1. To request a report on item 96/05 Dog Fouling Enforcement and 24/07 Network and Telephony Strategy.**
- 2. To request a monthly analysis of Forward Plan items for items which do not appear in the Forward Plan for four months with an explanation of why not.**

52/07 Responses from Council Cabinet to any Reports of the Commission

There were no responses to any reports of the Commission.

53/07 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

The Commission considered a report on Corporate Finance Planning 2008-11 which had been considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 3 July 2007 and referred to the Commission for comment.

Resolved to note the report.

MINUTES END