Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 7:20 pm

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
11 JULY 2006

Present: Councillor Higginbottom (in the Chair)
                  Councillors Care, Carr, Jones, MacDonald, P. Berry, Samra

14/06   Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Allen, Jackson, Redfern and Turner

15/06   Late items introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced a late item about an invitation to take part in a free trial in a new Computer Internet Package 'Public Net'

Resolved to agree to the Overview and Scrutiny Team trialling the software and reporting back to a future meeting.

16/06   Declarations of Interest

There were none.

17/06   Minutes

Subject to the inclusion of Councillor Jones in the list of attendees, the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18/06   Call-In

No items had been called in.

Items for Discussion
19/06   Consultation Strategy 2006

The Commission received a presentation on the new Consultation Strategy for 2006 which would be sent to Council Cabinet for approval on 1 August 2006.

Councillor Care asked how people who did not have internet access would be able to access the consultation. Officers agreed this needed further investigation.

Councillor Care suggested that the differences between harder to reach and harder to engage groups needed to be made clearer.

Resolved to note the report.

20/06 Deferral of Items to the meeting of Scrutiny Management Commission on 12 September 2006

Resolved to note the report.

21/06 Performance Eye

The Commission discussed Performance Eye.

Resolved to take the following actions:

a) **No items were selected for consideration at a future meeting.**

b) **Due to technical difficulties it was agreed to defer the refresher on the use of performance eye until September. It was noted that training sessions were being run over the summer on the system and it was agreed that an updated score card detailing Scrutiny Management Commissions responsibilities be circulated.**

c) **The report was noted**

22/06 Retrospective Scrutiny

a) **Resolved not to select any items for retrospective scrutiny.**

b) The commission received a presentation on the effects or outcomes of savings implemented as part of this year's budget in respect of the closure of the Bus Station. It was felt that a clearer picture of the financial situation would be available in September.

Resolved to defer further consideration of the item until September

c) The Commission received a report from the Corporate Director Resources and a presentation on monitoring of savings.

Resolved to note the report.

23/06 Local Democracy Week

The Commission received a request for support for an event for young people during the Council's Involvement in Local Democracy Week.

Resolved to

a) **donate £500 from the Overview and Scrutiny research budget to support the proposed Involvement in Local Democracy Week 2006**
b) **inform the Overview and Scrutiny Team if they wished to volunteer to take part in this event.**

24/06   Work Plan

a) The Commission received a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services regarding the proposed review of Council Tax Income/Expenditure. It was felt that the review would involve a lot of work and resources and concerns were raised about the accuracy of any findings due to the large numbers of variables involved.

Resolved to not continue with this topic review and request that the information in the report be circulated electronically.

b) The Commission then considered a proposal by the Chair to look at Electoral Registration and how people could be encouraged to register and vote.

Resolved to agree to carry out this topic review and to request a scoping report and terms of reference at the September meeting.

25/06   Council Cabinet Forward Plan

The Commission considered the items on the Forward Plan that came within the remit of the Commission.

Resolved to not request any items.

26/06   Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

There were none.

27/06   Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were none.

MINUTES END