

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 7.40 pm

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 3 MARCH 2009

Present: Councillor Graves (in the Chair)
Councillors Batey, Bolton, Hird, Hussain, F Khan, Poulter and Webb

In attendance: Councillor Redfern

117/08 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

118/08 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items

119/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

120/08 Call in

There were no items.

Items for Discussion

121/08 Local Area Agreement Refresh

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Resources detailing the refresh process that was being undertaken in relation to the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for 2008-2011. The report would be considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 17 March 2009.

The Commission were concerned that Performance Surgeries were not taking place which meant that performance indicators were not getting the appropriate scrutiny.

The Commission was asked to forward any comments or concerns on the LAA Refresh to the Planning and Performance team prior to the Cabinet meeting on 17 March.

Resolved to note the report.

122/08 Network and Telephone Strategy (Forward Plan Item 24/07)

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Resources detailing

the progress being made with the Network and Telephone Strategy, and the key actions already taken and planned. The strategy would be considered by Council Cabinet in April/May.

The Commission advised that it wished to consider the strategy in more detail once it had been agreed by Council Cabinet.

Resolved to note the progress being made with the Network and Telecoms Strategy.

123/08 Councillor Call for Action and New Delegated Powers

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services providing details of 'Councillor Calls for Action' which would come into effect on 1 April 2009 under the Overview and Scrutiny (Reference by Councillors)(Excluded Matters)(England) Order 2008. The Councillor Call for Action would provide elected members with the opportunity to ask for discussions at scrutiny committees on issues where local problems had arisen and where other methods of resolution had been exhausted.

Resolved to note the report.

124/08 Annual Report 2008/09

The Commission were advised that preparation of the 2008/2009 Annual Report of the Scrutiny Commissions would soon be underway. Members were provided with a survey form which they were asked to complete and return to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer.

Resolved to agree that the annual report would be signed off by the Chair, Vice Chair and Councillor F Khan .

125/08 Discussion Paper – Finance and Performance Sub Committee

The Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services highlighting proposals for introducing a Finance Sub Commission to add value to the scrutiny process.

Resolved to consider more detailed proposals for setting up a Finance Sub Committee at a future meeting.

126/08 Work Plan

Review of the Enforcement of the Council's Licensing Policy

The Commission considered the draft report of the Review of the Enforcement of the Council's Licensing Policy. The Commission made amendments to the draft recommendations.

Councillor Redfern commented that she was grateful for the opportunity to attend some of the meetings in this review.

The Commission was advised that the final report would be presented to the Licensing Committee on 25 March and would then go to the next available Full Council meeting.

Resolved to approve the review of the Enforcement of the Council's Licensing Policy with the amendments made during the meeting.

Work Plan March 2009 – April 2010

The Commission were advised that Council Cabinet had proposed that the Commission carry out a review of the budget scrutiny process.

Resolved to carry out a review of the budget setting process with the aim of determining what could be done to improve the process. A scoping report is to be provided to a future SMC meeting.

127/08 Performance Eye

The Commission considered performance indicators that were related to the Commissions portfolio.

Resolved to note the report.

128/08 Forward Plan

The Commission considered the forward plan items relating to the portfolio of the commission.

Resolved to note the report.

129/08 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items.

130/08 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

The Commission considered the following items that had been referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet:

Minute 218/08 – Corporate and Adult Services Voluntary and Community Sector Grant Funding for 2009/10

Minute 219/08 – Children's Social Care Voluntary and Community Sector Inflationary Increase for 2009/2010

Minute 220/08 – Annual Arts Grant 2009/10

In respect of the above the Commission were asked by Cabinet to carry out a fundamental review of grant funding across the Council.

Resolved to advise Council Cabinet that the Commission did not wish to carry out a review of grant funding across the Council.

131/08 Response of the Council Cabinet to the Recommendations and Reports of the Commission

The Commission considered responses of the Council Cabinet to recommendations and reports of the Commission.

Resolved to note Cabinet's responses.

MINUTES END