

Time commenced - 6.00 pm  
Time finished - 7:45 pm

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
20 JUNE 2006

Present: Councillor Higginbottom (in the Chair)  
Councillors Allen, Care, Jackson, MacDonald, P. Berry, Redfern  
Samra

01/06 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Carr

02/06 Late items introduced by the Chair

The Chair introduced a late item from the Children and Young People's Commission asking the Scrutiny Management Commission to approve its topic review on Looked After Children.

**Resolved to approve the Children and Young People Commission's topic review into Looked After Children.**

03/06 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Allen declared a personal interest in an item on the Forward Plan (Minute Number 12/06) in relation to the forward plan item Destination Management Partnership as he was a Diocesan Tourism Officer and recently attended a Derby Destination Management Conference at Derby University.

04/06 Minutes

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**Resolved to thank the Chair and former Scrutiny Management Commission for their work over the last year.**

- b) The minutes of the final meetings of the former Community Regeneration, Culture and Prosperity, Education, Planning and Environment and Social Care and Health Commissions were confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

05/06 Call-In

- a) There had been no call in of a decision.
- b) The commission noted the procedure for Call-in.

## Items for Discussion

### 06/06 Outstanding Overview and Scrutiny Items

The Commission received a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services.

It was noted that the outstanding item for the Scrutiny Management Commission were the proposed topic review of Council tax income and expenditure and certain other matters held over from former commissions.

**Resolved to note the report.**

### 07/06 Standing Agenda Items

The Commission received a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services which asked the Commission to determine whether they wanted Performance Eye and Retrospective Scrutiny to remain as standing items on the agenda.

It was agreed that no one member of the Commission would be the Performance Eye Champion and that this role would be shared between all the Commission members.

Councillor Redfern expressed concern that Disposal of Land remained a standing item on the Forward Plan. The Commission noted that a report had been brought to Scrutiny Management Commission in the past and that this could be looked at again as a Retrospective Scrutiny item.

**Resolved:**

- a) to keep Performance Eye and Retrospective Scrutiny as standing items on the Commissions agenda with reporting arrangements to continue in the same format as the previous year.**
- b) Not to appoint a Scrutiny Management Commission Performance Eye Champion but to share the role between all Commission members.**
- c) to request a Retrospective Scrutiny report on the Disposal of Land item on the Forward Plan.**

### 08/06 Work Planning and Resources

The Commission received a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services.

The Commission was asked to determine whether they wished to pursue the Council Tax Income and Expenditure topic review which had been started by the former Scrutiny Management Commission as a topic review for this municipal year.

The Commission noted that a scoping report containing detailed background information was available.

The Commission noted that this review would involve a lot of work by Commission Members and that the review would have to be member led.

Councillor Redfern felt that facilities for Older People should be included in the topic review if it were to proceed.

The Commission felt that it was important that, wherever possible, topic reviews should be completed during the municipal year.

#### **Resolved**

- a) to request the background scoping report on the proposed Council Tax Income and Expenditure review be brought to the next meeting in order that the Commission can determine whether to adopt it as their topic review for this year.**
- b) to consider alternative suggestions for topic reviews and to discuss these at the next meeting and to request members to email any suggestions to the co-ordination officer.**
- c) to request update reports be brought to Scrutiny Management Commission on the progress of all overview and scrutiny commission topic reviews.**

### **09/06 Overview and Scrutiny Training**

The Commission received a report from the Director Of Corporate and Adult Social Services on the training package available to overview and scrutiny members.

The Commission discussed the training of new Members and felt that Overview and Scrutiny training should be mandatory.

#### **Resolved:**

- a) to ask the Chair to write on behalf of the Commission to all party whips to ask them to encourage all new Members to undertake overview and scrutiny training.**
- b) to note the report.**

### **10/06 Co-opting Individuals to the Commission**

The Commission received a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services on co-opting individuals on to the Commission.

The Chair reported that the Compact Forum had expressed an interest in nominating representatives to be co-opted onto all Commissions.

The Commission felt that any co-opted individuals should remain politically neutral and should be there either as representatives for a community group, or as individuals with appropriate skills and expertise onto commissions particularly to assist with topic reviews.

**Resolved:**

- a) to co-opt individuals to the Scrutiny Management Commission as and when it was felt to be appropriate
- b) to ask the Chair to write to the Compact Forum stating that they would be welcome to attend any public meeting at the Council that they had an interest in, and that if they wished to speak on any particular item they should discuss this with the Chair prior to the meeting.

**11/06 Council Cabinet Forward Plan**

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

**Resolved to request that reports on the following items be brought to a future meeting of the Commission**

- **Item 47/05 Disposal of Allestree Hall**
- **Item 06/06 Local Area Agreement Financial Governance Arrangements for 2006/07**

**12/06 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission**

There were none.

**13/06 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet**

The Commission considered and noted a report by Gordon Stirling, the Head of Change Management and Performance, on the Best Value Performance Plan and Annual Report 2006/07.

**Resolved to note the report.**

MINUTES END