

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 7.45 pm

**COMMUNITY COMMISSION
18 JUNE 2007**

Present: Councillor Bayliss (in the Chair)
Councillors Berry, Gerrard, Jackson, Jennings, R Khan, Redfern
and Troup

01/07 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

02/07 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items

03/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/07 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05/07 Call – In

There were no items.

**06/07 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the
Commission**

The Commission considered a minute extract from the Community Safety and E Government Cabinet Member Meeting relating to the reinstatement of Section 30 Orders. Members of the Commission explained problems and experiences which had occurred across the city. There was an issue with numbers of police to react to Section 30 Orders. The causes of the problems needed to be addressed as well as the symptoms. It was suggested that the police be invited to the next meeting to put their point of view on Section 30 Orders, their reinstatement and alcohol restricted zones and their effectiveness.

Resolved to note the minute extract and ask the Police to attend the next meeting to discuss Section 30 Orders.

Items for Discussion

07/07 Neighbourhood Working

The Commission received a presentation from Andy Thomas - Head of Stronger and Safer Communities on proposals for rolling out neighbourhood working city wide and replace area panels with neighbourhood forums. It was proposed that one forum be established for each of the 17 wards coterminous with the ward boundaries. A number of briefing sessions with elected members had been held to explain the new structure and these were followed by more detailed discussions with ward members to enable them to have a better understanding of the proposed neighbourhood working model.

Neighbourhood working had been piloted in a number of areas and this had worked well. Services would be delivered closer to the people who would have a say in shaping services and setting priorities. It was noted that the police were keen to move to neighbourhood working as this fitted in better with their boundaries. Members of the Commission expressed concern about the definition of a neighbourhood. The Commission agreed that the model be rolled out on a ward basis and then the next level of detail could be addressed. The Commission were supportive of the proposals and the benefits it could bring. Consideration still needed to be given to how the roll out would be financed.

The commission wanted to be part of the process and look at the proposals on a cross party basis. They were particularly interested in the constitutional arrangements and what would happen to area panel funding.

Resolved to receive an update report at the next meeting on how far the roll out had progressed. (see also resolution 1 at minute 08/07)

08/07 Work Planning and Resources 2007/08

The Commission considered a report which stated that Commissions were expected to set their annual work programme based around items contained within their respective portfolios at the beginning of each municipal year.

Members of the Commission suggested that neighbourhood working should be considered as a priority due to the imminent roll out of neighbourhood working. They also suggested looking at why Nottingham and Leicester Playhouses received more funding from the Arts Council than Derby Playhouse, the new housing allocation policy which had recently been implemented particularly where emergency banded homes were situated in the city.

Resolved

- 1. To consider neighbourhood working. The Commission particularly wanted to consider Area Panel agendas to see how each of the issues would be considered/dealt with in future, changes to the Constitution, how to promote neighbourhoods, how people become involved in boards/forums and the engagement of younger people.**

2. To ask the Cabinet Member and / or our representatives on the Board of Derby Playhouse to attend the next meeting.
3. To consider the Housing Allocations Policy in October 2007.
4. To consider Housing/Council Tax Benefits backlog at the next meeting.

09/07 Performance Management - Fourth Quarter Monitoring 2006/07

The Commission considered a report which stated that monitoring performance was an important role for the scrutiny process as it enabled the non executive members to assess Council's performance, hold Cabinet to account and help to improve local services.

It was suggested that annual indicators be considered at the July meeting and that the quarterly indicators be phased over the year. Red indicators to be considered at the October meeting and Amber indicators as part of performance monitoring.

Resolved

1. To consider annual indicators at the July 2007 meeting.
2. To consider red quarterly indicators at the October 2007 meeting
3. To consider amber indicators as part of performance monitoring.

10/07 Focussed Scrutiny Items

There were none.

11/07 Retrospective Scrutiny

Housing Allocations and Benefits were identified at Minute 08/07.

Resolved to also consider Public Art at a future meeting.

12/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

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

Resolved not to request any new items.

13/07 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were none.

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