

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 9.10pm

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 29 JUNE 2010

Present: Councillor Carr (in the Chair)
Councillors Barker, Bolton, Davis, Dhindsa, Harwood, Hussain,
F Khan

Co-opted Member for the Crime and Disorder matters, Chief Superintendent Andy Hough Divisional Commander, Derbyshire Constabulary,

01/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Holmes, Ingall and Jennings.

02/10 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/10 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05/10 Council Accommodation

The Commission considered a report which would be considered by Council Cabinet at its meeting on 6 July 2010. They also received a presentation on the proposals for the refurbishment of the Council House and for decant accommodation at Heritage Gate.

Resolved to make the following comments to Council Cabinet

- **To note that significant changes were made to the architects' designs since a presentation to the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, so it was important to understand that the plans shown had not been endorsed by Conservation Area Advisory Committee. However they would have another formal opportunity to consider the final proposals as part of the planning application process.**
- **The general aim of the scheme should be to maximise the building and surroundings for community use.**
- **There was a wish to open up the river frontage, possibly including a patio linked to the planned café and available for hire, for events such as**

weddings, which could generate income. However the Council should only proceed with opening up the river frontage if it was compatible with building security.

- Members believed the presentation needed to show more details and images of the Council Chamber, including, size, space layout and the provision of ICT. There was a need for Members to be able to see and fully discuss the options for the Council Chamber.
- It was acknowledged that the current Council Chamber was not DDA compliant.

Crime and Disorder Matters

06/10 The Role and Membership of the Commission as Designated Crime and Disorder Committee

The Commission considered a report setting out the role and remit of the Scrutiny Management Commission acting as the Crime and Disorder Committee. Every local authority with responsibilities for crime and disorder reduction must have a 'crime and disorder committee'. This could either be free-standing or achieved through designation of an existing scrutiny commission. The Council has designated the Scrutiny Management Commission for this purpose. The arrangement had now operated for 12 months.

For unitary authorities like Derby there are two main committee functions:

- To provide scrutiny of the partner agencies activities within the local crime and disorder reduction partnership – Derby's Community Safety Partnership, CSP – with the option of the Commission making reports or recommendations.
- To consider Councillor Calls for Action which are of a crime and disorder nature, including in particular forms of crime and disorder that involve anti-social behaviour or other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment, or the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances.

Last year the Commission decided that crime and disorder issues should normally be considered on a quarterly basis with the Director of the CSP routinely in attendance. A work programme was also agreed. It was also decided to closely follow government guidance by co-opting the two Police Authority members plus the local divisional commander, all three without voting rights. The Police Authority members were asked to make a regular report.

There was a specific need to review co-options. Normally co-options to Derby City Council bodies required full Council approval and last for a single municipal year. Crime and disorder-related co-options were by statute the responsibility of the designated committee. The co-options made in the last municipal year were without time limit.

Councillor Jones had now replaced Councillor F Winter as a member of Derbyshire Police Authority. Councillor Hickson had become a Cabinet Member and was not eligible to serve on a scrutiny commission. A further issue was that the only Councillor on the Community Safety Partnership was the Leader of the Council.

Resolved to co-opt Councillor Jones as the police authority representative on to

the Crime and Disorder Committee is place of Councillor F Winter.

07/10 Crime Statistics for the City of Derby

The Commission received a presentation from Laura Follows – Senior Research and Information Officer at Derby Community Safety Partnership on crime statistics for the city of Derby. The presentation included performance against Local Area Agreement (LAA) indicators and other national indicators and particular issues in relation to domestic violence, anti social behaviour, assault with injury and alcohol related ambulance pick-ups.

There appeared to be a particular problem with the density of licensed premises in the City Centre. Andy Thomas reported that a night time economy group had been set up to develop a vision and give the statistics some context.

Superintendent Hough reported on announcements by the Home Secretary to the Association of Police Authorities.

Resolved

- 1. To revisit the licensing review undertaken jointly by the Commission and the Taxi Licensing and Appeals and General Licensing Committee and invite the Head of Licensing to come to a future meeting of the Commission.**
- 2. To request that the night time economy group put together an update for the next meeting.**

08/10 Gangs – The Position in Derby 2010

The Commission received an update from Andy Thomas Interim Director of the Derby Community Safety Partnership on gangs, particularly in relation to enforcement, prevention, community resilience and case management.

Resolved to note the report.

09/10 Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2011-14 – Initial Consideration

The Commission received a briefing from Andy Thomas Interim Director of the Derby Community Safety Partnership on the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy 2011-14.

Resolved to note the report.

Other Matters

10/10 Councillor Call for Action

The Commission considered the report which had been approved by Council in May 2009, which set out the protocol for the use of Councillor Calls for Action.

Resolved to note the report.

11/10 School Meals Update

The Commission considered a report setting out the latest position in relation to the school meals service.

Since the last report, eight primary schools had withdrawn from the service, leaving 69 still using the service. Five secondary schools use the service and one had already indicated its intention to withdraw at the end of the financial year. This, together with the cost of providing a meal rising to £3, had increased the budget problem with deficits of £295 000 forecast for 2010/11, for which one-off budget provision of £220 000 had been made, and potentially around £600 000 in 2011/12, compounded by the anticipated loss of the School Lunch Grant in September 2011, for which one-off budget provision of £170 000 had been made. Clearly, then it was important that this issue progresses quickly.

Head teachers had been consulted and their preferred option was 'cook from scratch', that was to say meals prepared and cooked on site. The costs of this were significantly in excess of the income generated. Regenerated meals (essentially 'ready meals' reheated on site) do, however, have advantages in that:

- meal consistency is maintained which meets the Food based Standards for School Lunches legislation. Currently an issue for those schools without a cooking kitchen
- a wider choice of hot meal could be offered. Customer feedback had shown a desire for a wider range of 'choice of menu' to be made available. This could not be delivered within the existing constraints of the school meal service kitchens.

The options now included:

- A) Partial outsourcing – Derby City Council to procure prepared meal and deliver to a Derby City Council hub. Meals distributed to schools and regenerated on site.
- B1) Outsourcing to private or public provider - cook from scratch.
- B2) Outsourcing to private or public provider – regeneration direct to school kitchens.
- C) Derby City Council - Central production kitchen with regeneration in local school kitchens.
- D) Derby City Council – In-house modernised cook from scratch service in school kitchens.
- E) Derby City Council - Cook from scratch.

It was intended to take a report to Council Cabinet in the near future, setting out the options with aim of selecting a way forward. Other means of mitigating current losses were being considered including meal price increase (last increased in October 2009) and choice of meals.

Resolved

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To arrange a special meeting of the Commission once the report for Council Cabinet becomes available.**

12/10 One Derby, One Council Programme Update

The Commission received a presentation from the Chief Executive on One Derby One Council programme.

Resolved to note the presentation.

13/10 Call-in

The Commission considered the procedure for Call-in of Executive Key Decisions.

Resolved to note the report.

14/10 Remit and Work Programme 2010/11

The Commission considered a report on the role and remit of the Commission and were asked to identify possible items for the 2010-11 annual work programme.

Resolved to note the report and not to request any additional items to be included in the work programme.

15/10 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items requested.

16/10 Forward Plan Analysis – Quarterly Report

The Commission considered a report which stated that at its meeting in September 2007 the Commission considered a report on Key and Budget and Policy Framework decision made by Council Cabinet which were and were not included on the Forward Plan and made recommendations to Council Cabinet.

Since then a meeting was held in February 2008 between the chair and Vice Chair with the Leader and Deputy Leader to discuss the Commission recommendations for the Forward Plan. The Leader and Deputy Leader gave assurances that procedures would be tightened up and an audit trail be made available. This report detailed the Key and Budget Performance Framework decisions taken by Council Cabinet during the period 20 April – 8 June 2010. Where it has been possible to do so, the Council Cabinet decision has been related to the relevant Forward Plan item. In these cases the time between the item being placed on the Forward Plan and the decision being made by Council Cabinet was shown in the table attached to the report. When an item has not been included on the forward plan, the report author was asked to provide an explanation for its absence. These responses were provided in the table in appendix 2 of the report.

Since 29 January 2008 this report has been a regular standing item on the Scrutiny Management Commission's agenda. This has enabled the Commission to ensure that the Forward Plan was being used correctly by officers and helped the Commissions to plan their work programmes effectively.

Resolved to note the report.

17/10 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items requested.

18/10 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet.

19/10 Response of Council Cabinet to the Recommendations
and Reports of the Commission

There were no responses from Council Cabinet to any recommendations or reports of the Commission.

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