

Time commenced – 6.00pm

Time finished – 7.40pm

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION 22 NOVEMBER 2010

Present: Councillor Carr (in the Chair)
Councillors Davis, Harwood and F Khan

In attendance Councillors Atwal, S Khan, Leeming, Marshall, Naitta, Rawson
Redfern, Repton.

60/10 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker and Bolton.

61/10 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

62/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

63/10 Succession Strategy for Derwent New Deal for Communities

The Chair introduced the item by explaining that the issues had recently been considered at meetings of the Resources Commission, most recently on October 25. It was explained that Council's decision on 17 November to dissolve the Resources Commission and allocate responsibility for its terms of reference to Scrutiny Management Committee resulted in item being put before members. The Chair stated that he would allow questions from members of the public, including Peter Ballard, Chair of Derwent New Deal for Communities (the NDC) Board and member of Derwent Delivers Board, and Linda Lucas, a member of the NDC board.

Richard Boneham, Head of Audit and Risk Management, summarised the result of an audit carried out on the management of the NDC, which commenced in 2008. The summary of the findings, presented to members, included that:

- there was no detailed discussion of community involvement;
- the appraisal panel was unable to produce a robust and objective appraisal that was appropriate to the level of funding and degree of risk involved;
- the accountable body had failed to ensure that Derwent Community Team had adequate systems in operation to appraise and approve projects.

Mr Boneham detailed 14 recommendations made as a result of the audit, which it was understood had all been accepted and acted on by the NDC Board.

The Chair invited Peter Ballard to speak. Mr Ballard read out a statement on behalf of the board expressing great disappointment at the circumstances the programme now found

itself in, with very few sustainable projects surviving following the investment of significant funds. Mr Ballard, Mrs Lucas and Councillors Rawson and Redfern then put a number of prepared questions to Angus Maitland, of Derby City PCT, surrounding the Revive Healthy Living Centre. The questions were focused on the PCT's involvement in the creation of the centre and subsequent withdrawal from the scheme. Members accepted that it was particularly difficult for Mr Maitland to answer the more detailed questions given that he had not received a copy in advance of the meeting. Members expressed disappointment that Prem Singh, Chief Executive of Derby City PCT, was unable to attend the meeting. It was agreed that Mr Maitland would be provided with a written copy of the questions after the meeting so that a full response could be circulated to members in due course and be the subject of further consideration at the scheduled meeting on 7 December.

The possibility of members potentially calling for a public inquiry into the handling of the NDC funds was discussed. There was a difference of opinion between members as to whether this would be beneficial, with the majority of members considering that it would result in further cost with little benefit.

Resolved to:

- 1) support the recommendations of the Resources Commission, detailed in Item 8 of the report to Council Cabinet on 23 November 2010;**
- 2) recommend that Cabinet attempt to find an exit or succession strategy for the whole of the Derwent NDC programme;**
- 3) request that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture to explore the incorporation of the Gateway Centre into the Council's developing Leisure Strategy;**
- 4) request that the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People explore the wider use of the Gateway Centre for community purposes, particularly activities for young residents;**
- 5) request that meetings be sought between the Chief Executives of the Council and NHS Derby City to achieve the exit or succession strategy and**
- 6) to further consider the issues that have led to the current situation at the scheduled meeting on 7 December.**

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