

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 8.38pm

**SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
22 MARCH 2010**

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

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

100/09 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hird.

101/09 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

102/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

103/09 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

104/09 Call-in

There were no items.

Crime and Disorder Matters

105/09 Derbyshire Constabulary

Superintendent Hough reported on the proposed divisional restructuring of Derbyshire Constabulary. The changes included bringing Erewash in with the City and South Derbyshire. The population of the expanded area covered was increasing from 330,000 to 445,000. It was expected that there would not be much, if any, impact on the city. He also reported that from October 2010 shift patterns would be changing which would mean up to 5,000 extra work days would be available.

Members of the Commission asked various questions around how the reorganisation would work operationally. Safer neighbourhood teams would have minimal disruption and may even be able to have additional officers assigned to them. The main impacts related

to senior management. There was a review of the night time economy being undertaken and the results of this would be tied in to licensing.

Superintendent Hough also reported on the Her Majesty' Inspector of Constabulary Police Report Card. He explained that there were four areas of inspection, some of the data was four years old and how they were compared against other police authorities. He referred to a detailed report on these points to be considered by the Derbyshire Police Authority on 25 March 2010.

Members of the Commission expressed concern about the comparator group used and the need for the additional funding.

Resolved

- 1. To support the efforts of the Police Authority to get the comparator group changed and to get more funding.**
- 2. To request an update on the restructure changes in six months.**

106/09 Review of Derby Community Safety Partnership

The Commission considered a report setting out a review of Derby Community Safety Partnership. Members of the Commission expressed concern about the level of Member involvement in the partnership and felt that it was like being on the outside looking in rather than inside. Consideration was given to whether it would be possible to nominate a Councillor to sit on the Sub Groups of the Executive Board. Alternatively the Commission could consider the Community Safety Partnership's performance against the business plan on a six monthly basis.

The Commission made the following comments on the review

Recommendation 2.6 is supported provided the review includes the goal of securing increased member involvement. This is to address the democratic deficit. The current arrangement sees only one Councillor on the Partnership Board. The extent of the deficit is shown by the absence of the Scrutiny Management Commission in the review despite having been designated as the statutory crime and disorder committee and having specifically recorded a wish to have an input into this review at its December meeting. The Commission confirmed that they would like to have much more involvement in the review.

Means of achieving enhanced member involvement could include Councillors in the Partnership Board's Sub Groups and/or having scrutiny representation on the Board itself.

Recommendation 2.8: the holding of joint meetings with accountable bodies is supported but there is not much flesh on the bones of this proposal. The Commission wanted to have twice yearly reports on the achievements of the CSP against its agreed objectives.

Recommendation 2.11: the relocation of neighbourhood management to the Council is welcomed.

Resolved to forward the above comments to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.

Other Matters

107/09 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

The Commission considered responses from the Council Cabinet to the reports on Revenue Budget Proposals 2010/11 – 2012/13 and the Corporate Plan 2010/11 – 2012/13.

Resolved to note the report.

108/09 Place Survey Action Plan

The Commission considered a report setting out the Place Survey Action Plan. The Commission were concerned about the delay between the survey being carried out and the data being available. Consideration was given to carrying out interim surveys.

Resolved to support the proposal to carry out more frequent surveys on the same criteria as the Government surveys.

109/09 Review of Derby City Partnership

The Commission considered a report on the review of Derby City Partnership. Members of the Commission were concerned that no Chief Officer, Assistant Director or Cabinet Members attended the meeting to answer question on the review.

The Commission made the following comments on the review

Appendix 2 on page 7: concerns were expressed about the reduction in the number of partners contributing to the Derby City Partnership's running costs.

In relation to paragraph 4.6 the Commission members felt as if they were currently on the outside looking in. Linking this to recommendation 2.1 the Commission want to be involved in the full review and wish to have a timetable provided which clearly set out the stages and how it was proposed to involve the Commission. The review should include the reporting arrangements and elected Members' involvement.

An officer leading the review should attend the June Commission meeting.

On the same basis as for the Community Safety Partnership, the Commission wanted to have twice yearly reports on the achievements of the Derby City Partnership against its agreed objectives. There was a belief that the Derby City Partnership was driving forward and achieving but this was not very visible to members or the wider public.

Resolved to forward the above comments to the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.

110/09 Annual Overview and Scrutiny Members Satisfaction Survey

The Commission were asked to complete the annual overview and scrutiny Members' satisfaction survey.

111/09 Forward Plan Analysis

The Commission considered a report which set out the key and budget and policy framework decisions made by Council Cabinet which were and were not included in the Forward Plan

The Commission periodically receives a report from the Commission Chair showing the compliance with the legal requirements for the inclusion of items in the Forward Plan. The Commission had previously been given assurances that procedures would be tightened up and an audit trail made available. Since 29 September 2009 very few entries were in for the standard of 4 months and there had been a recent trend to Key Decisions not being included at all. Two such omissions were the reviews to the Derby City Partnership and Community Safety Partnership. Reference would need to be made to this in the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report. The Commission requested that further assurances would be given as to how compliance would be improved and maintained in future.

Resolved to refer the comments of the Commission to the Leader of the Council.

112/09 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items requested.

113/09 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

To request the item on school meals project.

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