

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 7.42 pm

**SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
5 DECEMBER 2006**

Present: Councillor Higginbottom (in the Chair)
Councillors Berry, Care, Dhindsa, Jackson, MacDonald, Samra
and Turner.

In Attendance Councillor Williamson

64/06 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allen and Jones.

65/06 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were none.

66/06 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

67/06 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Items for Discussion

68/06 Corporate Priorities

The Commission received a presentation from Paul Dransfield Corporate Director Resources and Housing on a review of corporate priorities 2007-10.

Resolved to e mail any comments to David Romaine Scrutiny and Complaints Manager by 15 December 2006 so that he can co-ordinate comments for submission to Council Cabinet.

69/06 Land at Swallowdale Road

The Commission received a presentation on proposals for land at Swallowdale Road Sinfin. It was noted that Julie Basford was dealing with the sale of the land and Mike Meluish was dealing with the housing PFI. It was noted that the Community Commission had undertaken a one day review of supplementary planning guidance on affordable housing and the report was due to be completed at the end of January.

Resolved to provide an interim report to Council Cabinet on the Community Commission's recommendations on affordable housing relating to:

- **'pepper-potting' of affordable housing units**
- **The construction and handing over of affordable housing units**
- **The co-ordination of the construction of different properties in a development and to ask Council Cabinet to take those recommendations into account when taking its decision on land at Swallowdale Road.**

70/06 Corporate Assessment/Joint Area Review

The Commission received a report on the Corporate Assessment / Joint Area Review which stated that the Audit Commission and Ofsted had confirmed that in October 2007, the Council would be subject to a combined Corporate Assessment and Joint Area Review. In addition the Children and Young People's Department would still be subject to a full Annual Performance Assessment in July 2007.

Resolved to note

- 1. The timescales for the combined Corporate Assessment/Joint Area Review.**
- 2. The requirement for the preparation of two self assessment documents.**
- 3. The timescales for the preparation and submission of these documents and the proposed changes to CPA outlined in the White Paper.**

71/06 Financial Support 'Your Derby'

The Commission considered a report which stated that from January 2007, the Council would start publishing a quarterly A4 16 page magazine style publication for all households, to be known as 'Your Derby'.

In recognition of the magazine's potential to better promote services and public understanding of the Council's processes, three functions had already agreed to contribute to the budget. These were: corporate communications, performance and change and the area panel communications budget.

The Commission was asked if it wished to financially support Your Derby by £5,000 per year on the same basis.

Resolved to approve a contribution of £5,000 per year from the research budget of the overview and scrutiny function to support the quarterly civic magazine and the contribution be reviewed after the first year.

72/06 Proposed Changes to Overview and Scrutiny set out in the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and Prosperous Communities'

The Commission considered a report which stated that in October 2006 the Local Government White Paper 'Strong and prosperous communities' was presented to Parliament. The White Paper contained a wide range of proposals. Those affecting scrutiny were set out in Parts 2 and 3 of the White Paper. Part 2 proposed extending the use of the Community Call for Action (CCfA) as a response to petitions, Overview and Scrutiny Commissions would be required to investigate and make recommendations as appropriate. The responses to the Commissions' recommendations would be publicised. Part 3 of the White Paper contained the proposals to strengthen scrutiny. The specific proposals were set out in Appendix 2 to the report. The White Paper was referred to in the Queen's Speech did not contain timescales for implementation but there were proposals to seek legislation at the earliest opportunity. If implemented the proposed changes would make Overview and Scrutiny much more demand driven.

Resolved to note the report.

73/06 Local Democracy Week Event – 14 November 2006

The Commission considered a report on the Local Democracy Week Event 'Your City – Your Voice' which took place on 14 November 2006 in the Council Chamber. This year eleven teams from a range of schools and youth organisations took part. There was a panel of seven Members, the questions which the panel were asked were set out in the report. The winner was Councillor Smalley. There had been good feedback from all the participants and strong support for future events of this type. Several of the young people who attended had agreed to talk to the Commission about their views on electoral registration. The Electoral Commission had confirmed that they would be posting details of the event on their website as an example of good practice.

Resolved to note the report.

74/06 Staff Energy Conference February/March 2007

The Commission considered a report which stated that the Commission at its meeting on 24 October 2006 agreed to a proposal to hold a half day conference to advise staff and Members of the issues facing the Council and to seek practicable ideas for conserving energy and minimising its consumption. The report set out proposals for the format of the conference which would be held on 8 March 2007. Councillor Williamson addressed the meeting and agreed to be a keynote speaker at the conference.

Resolved to approve the format of the proposed conference.

75/06 Performance Eye

No items were selected for consideration at a future meeting.

76/06 Retrospective Scrutiny

Resolved not to select any items for retrospective scrutiny

77/06 Work Plan

The Commission received an oral report from David Romaine Scrutiny and Complaints Manager. The last evidence gathering interviews had been completed for the review of electoral services. Evidence had been taken from Council Officers, the Electoral Commission, Leeds City Council and hard to reach groups represented by students, members of minority ethnic groups and young people. It was now proposed to prepare a draft report and to indicate some possible recommendations arising from the evidence considered by the Commission. The draft report and recommendations could be considered electronically or by a special meeting of the Commission.

Resolved to note the report.

78/06 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

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

Resolved to request a report on changes to Prudential Borrowing and Prudential Code and item 38/06 Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership Inward Investment Strategy.

79/06 Responses from Council Cabinet to any Reports of the Commission

The Commission considered a minute extract from the Corporate Policy and Personnel, Performance Management and Economic Development Cabinet Member Meeting held on 14 November 2006 on the recommendation arising from the Planning and Environment Commission's review of Energy Use by the Council.

Resolved to note the response from the Cabinet Member Meeting.

80/06 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were none.

MINUTES END