

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Commission held at County Hall, Glenfield on Wednesday, 20 April 2005.

PRESENT

Mr. N. J. Brown CC (in the Chair)

Mr. B. Chapman AE, CC
Mr. P. A. Hyde CC
Mr. P. C. Osborne CC
Prof. M. E. Preston CC
Mrs. M. L. Sherwin CC

Mr. S. J. Galton CC
Mr. Mike Jones CC
Mr. M. B. Page CC
Mr. N. J. Rushton CC
Mr. R. M. Wilson CC

169. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2005 were taken as read, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

170. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 35.

171. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 7 (3) and 7 (5).

172. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items for consideration.

173. Declarations of interest.

The following members declared non-prejudicial personal interests in the Report of the Review Panel on Working with Town and Parish Councils in their capacity as serving Parish or Town Councillors:

Mr N J Brown CC, Prof M E Preston CC, Mrs M L Sherwin CC and Mr R M Wilson CC

174. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

175. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

The Chief Executive reported that there were no petitions to be presented.

176. Final Report of the Five Member Panel - Working with Town and Parish Councils.

The Commission considered the final report of the Five Member Scrutiny Review Panel that had been established to investigate the County Council's current working arrangements with Town and Parish Councils. A copy of the report, marked 'A', is filed with these minutes.

The following points arose from discussion:

- As some of the smaller Parish Councils and Parish Meetings met less frequently they were unable to respond to County Council consultation papers within the timescales requested. Even if they had access to e-communications facilities this was still an issue;
- The role of the Chairman of the County Council should be added to the possible annexes to the Charter/Protocol. The Chairman's attendance at some events organised by Town and Parish Councils could have a very positive impact;
- The Cabinet should identify proposals in the Panel's report that required further action and should form part of an Action Plan. A further report should be submitted to the Commission on the action to be taken in response to the recommendations of the Review Panel.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to taking account of the comments made above, the conclusions and recommendations of the Review Panel be endorsed and that the report be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

177. Annual Report on behalf of Overview and Scrutiny Bodies.

The Commission considered the draft Annual Report of the main activities of the Scrutiny Commission and its Committees since the previous annual report was submitted in June 2004. A copy of the report, marked 'B', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Annual Report be approved for submission to the County Council.

20th April 2005
2.00 p.m. to 2.21 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

