

Meeting **Scrutiny Commission**

Date/Time **Monday, 10 December 2012 at 11.00 am**

Location **Sparkenhoe Committee Room, County Hall, Glenfield**

Officer to contact **Mr. S. J. Weston (Tel: 0116 305 6226)**

E-Mail **sam.weston@leics.gov.uk**

Membership

Mr. S. J. Galton CC (Chairman)

Mr. G. A. Boulter CC	Dr. S. Hill CC
Mrs. R. Camamile CC	Mr. A. M. Kershaw CC
Mrs. J. A. Dickinson CC	Mr. W. Liquorish JP CC
Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC	Ms. Betty Newton CC
Mr. T. Gillard CC	Mrs. R. Page CC
Mr. G. A. Hart CC	Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC

AGENDA

<u>Item</u>	<u>Report by</u>	<u>Marked</u>
1. Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2012.		A
2. Question Time.		
3. Questions asked by members under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).		
4. To advise of any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent elsewhere on the agenda.		
5. Declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.		
6. Declarations of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.		
7. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.		
8. Item Placed on the agenda at the request of Mr. A. D. Bailey CC: A426 Bus Corridor Scheme.		B

A presentation will be delivered by the Director of Environment and Transport. By way of background information, a copy of the consultation leaflet for the

Scheme is attached, alongside a leaflet from Glen Parva Parish Council which presents the arguments against the Scheme.

9. 2.00pm - Discussion with the Leader of the County Council.

This session is scheduled to finish at 3.00pm. The focus of the discussion will principally be around:

- Key priorities;
- Key policy challenges expected in the coming months; and
- The financial outlook going forward.

The Leader of the Council will be supported at this session by the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Lead Member for Resources.

10. 3.00pm - Discussion with Andrew Bacon, Chairman of the Leicester, Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP). C

This session will be prefaced by a brief introduction to the Government's "City Deals" programme. The focus of the discussion will be around the following three themes:

1. Investment in Leicestershire;
2. Focus and Priorities; and
3. Sub-Regional Ambition.

Mr. B. L. Pain CC and Mr. P. C. Osborne CC (County Council representatives on the LLEP Board) have been invited for this session.

A copy of the issues the Commission wishes to raise with Mr. Bacon is attached. By way of background information, the following documents are attached for members' information:

- The LLEP's Economic Growth Plan;
- A document outlining the LLEP's key first year achievements.

This session is scheduled to finish at 5.00pm

11. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled to take place on 31 January 2013 at 10.00am.

12. Any other items which the Chairman has decided to take as urgent.

QUESTIONING BY MEMBERS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Members serving on Overview and Scrutiny have a key role in providing constructive yet robust challenge to proposals put forward by the Cabinet and Officers. One of the most important skills is the ability to extract information by means of questions so that it can help inform comments and recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny bodies.

Members clearly cannot be expected to be experts in every topic under scrutiny and nor is there an expectation that they so be. Asking questions of 'experts' can be difficult and intimidating but often posing questions from a lay perspective would allow members to obtain a better perspective and understanding of the issue at hand.

Set out below are some key questions members may consider asking when considering reports on particular issues. The list of questions is not intended as a comprehensive list but as a general guide. Depending on the issue under consideration there may be specific questions members may wish to ask.

Key Questions:

- Why are we doing this?
- Why do we have to offer this service?
- How does this fit in with the Council's priorities?
- Which of our key partners are involved? Do they share the objectives and is the service to be joined up?
- Who is providing this service and why have we chosen this approach? What other options were considered and why were these discarded?
- Who has been consulted and what has the response been? How, if at all, have their views been taken into account in this proposal?

If it is a new service:

- Who are the main beneficiaries of the service? (could be a particular group or an area)
- What difference will providing this service make to them – What will be different and how will we know if we have succeeded?
- How much will it cost and how is it to be funded?
- What are the risks to the successful delivery of the service?

If it is a reduction in an existing service:

- Which groups are affected? Is the impact greater on any particular group and, if so, which group and what plans do you have to help mitigate the impact?
- When are the proposals to be implemented and do you have any transitional arrangements for those who will no longer receive the service?
- What savings do you expect to generate and what was expected in the budget? Are there any redundancies?
- What are the risks of not delivering as intended? If this happens, what contingency measures have you in place?