

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Commission held at County Hall, Glenfield on Friday, 14 October 2005.

PRESENT

Dr. M. O'Callaghan CC (in the Chair)

Mr. J. G. Coxon CC
Mr. S. J. Galton CC
Mr. Max Hunt CC
Mr. J.S. Moore CC
Mrs. R. Page CC

Mrs. J.A. Dickinson CC
Dr. S. Hill CC
Mr. Mike Jones CC
Mr. P. C. Osborne CC
Mr. E. D. Snartt CC

13. Minutes.

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

14. Question Time.

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

15. 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).

16. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items for consideration.

17. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

18. Declaration of the Party Whip in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

There were no declarations of the Party Whip.

19. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

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

20. Local Area Agreement.

The Commission considered a report of the Chief Executive concerning the development of a Local Area Agreement for Leicestershire. A copy of the report marked 'A' is filed with these minutes.

In response to questions the Commission was advised that:-

- a) the development of the Local Area Agreement would provide:
 - i) an opportunity to break down barriers and for all agencies, statutory and voluntary, to work together to achieve their own and shared priorities;
 - ii) the ability to bring together a number of funding streams and to use these more flexibly. Partners in the LAA would be able to 'pool their funding' so that it was part of the Agreement. An alternative would be for partners to 'align' their funding to deliver the agreed priorities;
 - iii) freedoms and flexibilities which it was hoped would reduce the reduce the level of bureaucracy particularly as each existing funding streams would now be monitored within the LAA framework against a smaller set of indicators;
 - iv) additional pump-priming and reward money for certain 'stretch' targets;
- b) whilst working relationships with District Councils was good there was a need to engage the District Local Strategic Partnerships (DLSPs). (For example DLSPs could play an important role in identifying centres in market towns and villages which could be targeted in the Agreement);
- c) whilst some of the objectives and priorities were taken from existing policies/strategies, it was hoped that by including these in the LAA the delivery of the target would be improved as a number of agencies would be involved. In particular, the role of the voluntary sector would enable the involvement of volunteers and community groups in areas of activity where hitherto they had not been involved;
- d) a detailed delivery plan would be developed which identified how each outcome and indicator would be achieved and who would be responsible for achieving it.

With regard to the development of detailed targets and monitoring of performance, the Commission was of the view that:-

- e) in relation to each priority the targets should highlight the added-value that it was hoped would be achieved by agencies working together;
- f) consideration should be given to establishing a mechanism whereby scrutiny processes within participating agencies, particularly the County Council and District Councils, could be developed to avoid multiple scrutiny of the LAA targets.

RESOLVED

- a) That the draft outline agreement be noted and that officers be asked to have regard to the comments now made.

- b) That the final draft agreement be submitted for consideration to the Commission's meeting on 18 January 2005.

21. Meetings Programme.

RESOLVED

That the following programme of meetings be agreed:-

Wednesday 14 December 2005	at 2.00 p.m.
Wednesday 18 January 2006	"
Wednesday 1 February 2006	"
(Budget Meeting)	at 2.00 p.m.
Wednesday 1 March 2006	"
Wednesday 3 May 2006	"
Wednesday 30 August 2006	"
Wednesday 15 November 2006	"

CHAIRMAN

14 October 2005
2.30 p.m. – 3.45 p.m.