

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Commission held at County Hall, Glenfield on Wednesday, 17 December 2008.

PRESENT

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

Mr. G. A. Boulter CC
Mr. D. R. Bown CC
Mr. R. Fraser CC
Mr. S. J. Galton CC
Mr. G. A. Hart CC

Mr. D. W. Houseman CC
Mr. John Legrys CC
Mr. J. S. Moore CC
Mr. R. J. Shepherd CC

161. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2008 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

162. Question Time.

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

163. 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).

164. Urgent Business.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

165. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no declarations made under Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.

167. Presentation of Petitions under Standing Order 36.

The Chief Executive reported that no petitions had been received under Standing Order 36.

168. Environmental Purchasing.

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Community Services outlining progress setting out progress to date on delivering the County Council's Environmental Purchasing Action Plan. A copy of the report, marked 'A', is filed with these minutes.

RESOLVED

That the good progress made on delivering the County Council's Environmental Purchasing Action Plan be noted.

169. Performance for half year 2008/09.

The Commission considered a report of the Chief Executive which set out performance against key targets and commitments in the CPA Action Plan, LAA1 and Medium Term Corporate Strategy. The report also set out the latest position on introducing monitoring of LAA2 and a more comprehensive set of Equalities Performance data. A copy of the report, marked 'B', is filed with these minutes.

In response to questions and comments the Commission was advised as follows:-

- Work was still underway to develop a baseline for a number of targets in LAA2 and that once this was done it would then be possible to provide members with data which tracked performance over several quarters. In addition in relation to the economic development targets it was proposed to produce a monthly monitor of key data (e.g. Unemployment) which could be made available to members;
- the seminar on Friday 19th December would cover amongst other things how performance on LAA2 is to be monitored. In addition, details of an event organised by the East Midlands Improvement Efficiency Partnership on scrutiny of the LAA would be circulated to all members shortly;
- the concerns now expressed and the wish of members to be advised at an early stage of the risk of certain schemes not delivering the planned efficiency savings would be drawn to the attention of the Director of Corporate Resources.

Members of the Commission also noted that the Children and young People's Service and the Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees had recently reviewed performance on the recruitment of foster carers and older people claiming various benefits and would be monitoring these over the coming year.

RESOLVED

That the position now reported on progress against performance against key targets and commitments in the CPA Action Plan, LAA1 and Medium Term Corporate Strategy be noted.

170. Reducing Alcohol Related Harm.

The Commission considered a report of the Chief Executive concerning the issue of alcohol misuse and the actions taken by various agencies to address the consequences. A copy of the report, marked 'C', is filed with these minutes.

Members noted that that action plan proposed was in the early stages of implementation and the outcomes of the proposed actions would not be known for some time. Concern was expressed about the vision in the Alcohol Strategy and members were of the view that the action plan needed to set out specific measures to demonstrate the success or otherwise of the initiatives proposed and these outcomes should be incorporated within the vision.

With regard the availability of treatment provision members were advised that this was recognised as an issue and the Chief Executive of the NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland (PCT) was heading up a regional subgroup to address this.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted and the Chief Executive be asked to submit a report to a future meeting setting out a more comprehensive vision for reducing alcohol misuse.

171. Review of the Industrial Properties and County Farm Portfolios.

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Resources and Chief Executive concerning a planned review of the County Council's Industrial Properties Trading Account and County Farms Estate. A copy of the report, marked 'D', is filed with these minutes.

The Head of Property advised that he would make available to the members details of valuation of both portfolios and of returns on the investment.

RESOLVED

That a five member panel be appointed to work with officers on the proposed review of the County Council's Industrial Properties Trading Account and County Farms Estate.

172. Date of next meeting.

RESOLVED:

It was noted that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Wednesday 28th January 2009 at 2pm.

2.00 pm - 3.35 pm
17 December 2008

CHAIRMAN