

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th March 2013 at Worksop Town Hall

Present:

Councillor J C Shephard (Chairman)
Councillors R Carrington-Wilde, D Challinor, M Gregory, J W Ogle, G A N Oxby,
D G Pidwell, T Rafferty, J B Rickells, J M Sanger, T Taylor and J White.

Officers: G Blenkinsop, L Dore, M Ladyman, N Taylor and R Theakstone.

Officers (Agenda Item No. 3 only): G Connor, E Prime, J Proudman, R Schofield and
S Wormald.

Also in Attendance: Councillor B Barker

Others in Attendance: Bernard Coleman – Director of A1 Housing (Bassetlaw) Ltd

(Meeting commenced at 7.00pm).

(The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and read out the Fire Alarm/Evacuation Procedure.)

147. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillor A Simpson.

148. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

(b) Officers

There were no declarations of interest by officers.

149. REVIEW OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY IN THE DISTRICT

Members of the Committee asked officers of the Council questions as part of the review of Enforcement Activity in the District. Answers to questions were recorded separately for the Committee to consider at a later meeting.

150. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th February 2013 be approved.

151. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

152. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

(Councillor White joined the meeting at this point).

152. FORWARD PLAN

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

153. CHOICE BASED LETTINGS

The Director of A1 Housing (Bassetlaw) presented slides which provided an update on Choice Based Lettings (CBL). Changes to the CBL Policy had been presented to Cabinet and approved at the meeting on 4th December 2012. Tenants have been notified that the changes have been agreed and that the new policy will take effect from 1st April 2013.

The Director provided information on the main changes to the policy and the issues arising, particularly as a result of changes to those people receiving benefits announced by the government.

Members raised queries regarding under-occupancy and the need for people to move if they could not afford to stay in their current home, housing for those escaping domestic violence and Armed Forces personnel and exclusions to the waiting list for ASB cases.

The Director advised that with only 6900 properties (the Council used to have 12,000) A1 Housing struggled to meet demand but was working with neighbouring authorities to try and accommodate those needing smaller properties. He confirmed that those who were not receiving benefits were unaffected as were those born before 6th October 1951 who were in receipt of benefits.

RESOLVED that the update on Choice Based Lettings be received.

SECTION A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC

Key Decisions

154. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET – 5TH MARCH 2013

- (a) Minute No. 157(a) – Bassetlaw CCTV System Update (Key Decision Nos. 341 and 348)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 157(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 5th March 2013 be endorsed.

Other Decisions

155. WAIVE OF CALL-IN/DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT SUFFICIENT NOTICE

None.

156. REFERRAL(S) FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

157. POSSIBLE CALL-IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET – 5TH MARCH 2013 OR BY CABINET MEMBERS

None.

158. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

(a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee Programme 2012/13

The updated programme was appended to the report.

RESOLVED that the updated Committee meeting programme for 2012/13 be noted.

(b) Report of the Review of the Ambulance Service in Bassetlaw

The Health Panel was tasked to review the Ambulance Service in Bassetlaw as part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Programme of Work for 2012/13.

Concerns had been raised following the consultation being undertaken by EMAS which proposed closure of the ambulance stations in Bassetlaw with a centralised service in Mansfield and also in a previous Health Review about the length of time patients were waiting for an ambulance. The report included 14 recommendations to improve the level of service provision by East Midland Ambulance Service (EMAS) in Bassetlaw.

The Chairman of the Health Panel offered his thanks to all Members involved with the review and also the Policy and Scrutiny Officers for their outstanding work. A wide range of healthcare professionals had been interviewed as witnesses and all Members had worked together with the best interests of Bassetlaw in mind. A local action group had been formed to fight the closure of the ambulance stations and a decision was due shortly.

RESOLVED that:

1. Thanks be recorded to the witnesses and Members of the Panel and a letter of thanks be sent to the Policy and Scrutiny Unit for their outstanding support on this review.
2. The recommendations of the Review of The Ambulance Service in Bassetlaw be approved.
3. The report be referred to Cabinet for consideration of the recommendations. Cabinet's response be submitted to the next available Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting

159. SELECT PANEL REPORTS

(a) Select Panel Update

The Corporate Development and Policy Manager advised that the Select Panel 3 review of the 'Future of Sustainable Transport in Bassetlaw' had met earlier in the day with a lot of information received from a variety of witnesses.

RESOLVED that the update on the Select Panel review be noted.

SECTION B - ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

160. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET – 5TH MARCH 2013

(a) Airey Housing, Harworth (Key Decision No. 359)

RESOLVED that Minute No. 359 of the Cabinet Meeting held on 5th March 2013 be endorsed.

Other Decisions

161. WAIVE OF CALL IN/DECISION TAKEN WITHOUT SUFFICIENT NOTICE

None.

162. POSSIBLE CALL IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET – 5TH MARCH 2013 OR BY CABINET MEMBERS

None.

163. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

As there was no other business to be discussed, the Chairman closed the meeting.

(Meeting closed at 8.30pm).