

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 15th March 2011 at Worksop Town Hall

Present:

Councillor J W Holland (Chair)

Councillors: B Jones, S A Greaves, P C Offer, G A N Oxby, D R Pressley,
Mrs M W Quigley, A Rhodes, J Scott, Mrs A Simpson and Miss M Stokes.

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

Others in Attendance: Councillor D Potts -Vice Chair of Select Panel
Mr B Coleman – A1 Housing Bassetlaw Ltd
Victoria Lindon – NHS Bassetlaw

Also present: Councillors B Barker, H Brand, B Hopkinson, M G Pugsley, C Wanless and
Mrs V Wanless

Standards Committee Members: None

143. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Jones and J W Ogle.

144. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

(a) Members

Councillor D R Pressley declared a personal interest in agenda item 13(b) as he is a volunteer at Bassetlaw Citizens Advice Bureau and stated he would remain in the meeting.

(b) Officers

There were no declarations of interest by officers.

145. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22nd FEBRUARY 2011

The Corporate Development and Policy Manager advised that a tour by Members had taken place as planned on 10th March to view the leisure facilities now managed by Barnsley Premier Leisure. Open days are planned for later in the year but Members can still arrange a personal tour at a time to suit them if this is preferable.

The Chairman commented that he had joined the tour on the 10th March which he had found interesting and informative. The customers he had made conversation with were happy with the facilities.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2011 be approved.

146. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION

RESOLVED that the Minutes for Action and Implementation be received.

147. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

With reference to Minute 130: Delivering the Improving Outcomes Guidance for Children and Young People with Cancer, it had not been possible to rearrange the presentation, however, the Corporate Development and Policy Manager advised that care for children and young people in Bassetlaw was mostly delivered in South Yorkshire hospitals.

RESOLVED that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

SECTION A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC

148. PRESENTATION: A1 HOUSING LTD - BEST VALUE INSPECTION

Members received a slideshow presentation from the Director of A1 Housing Ltd regarding the Best Value Inspection undertaken in February 2011. The organisation had been awarded two stars with 'promising prospects for improvement'.

Members asked questions regarding: the Decent Homes programme, adaptations, communication within A1 Housing, the Choice Based Lettings scheme, the volume of leaflet information distributed to tenants, delays to guttering repairs following the bad winter weather and eligibility for sheltered accommodation/bungalows.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The presentation be received.
- 2) Thanks be recorded to Mr Coleman for the presentation and responses to questions posed by Members.

149. BRIEFING – COMMUNITY DENTAL SERVICES IN BASSETLAW

Members received an update briefing on the provision of community dental services in Bassetlaw from Victoria Lindon, Developmental Manager for NHS Bassetlaw.

Members asked questions regarding: the eligibility of carers for treatment from the community dental service and the reason for dental work requiring general anaesthetic being undertaken at Doncaster and not Bassetlaw. It was confirmed that general anaesthetic for dental treatment must be provided in a hospital setting.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The briefing be received.
- 2) Thanks be recorded to Victoria Lindon for the briefing provided.

Key Decisions

150. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET – 1st MARCH 2011

- (a) Minute No 148(a) – Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) (Key Decision No 284)

RESOLVED that Minute No 148(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 1st March 2011 be endorsed.

- (b) Minute 149(a) – Older Person's Agenda (Key Decision No 285)

RESOLVED that Minute No 149(a) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 1st March 2011 be endorsed.

(c) Minute No 150(b) – Council's Progress on Equality and Diversity Issues (Key Decision No 228)

RESOLVED that Minute No 150(b) of the Cabinet Meeting held on 1st March 2011 be endorsed.

Other Decisions

151. WAIVE OF CALL-IN

None.

152. REFERRAL(S) FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

None.

153. POSSIBLE CALL IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET – 1ST MARCH 2011 OR BY CABINET MEMBERS

None.

154. REPORT(S) OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

(a) Forward Plan – March to June 2011

A Member asked for further information about the Worksop Canalside Creative Village and was advised by the Director of Community Services that it is a flagship investment with a link to the Canch and it is anticipated that it will be an attraction for both businesses and visitors.

In response to a query regarding the review of community centres and community houses, the Director of Community Services advised that there are a number of community properties in varying states of repair and with varying usage. A project team are undertaking the review and a report will be presented to Cabinet in July this year.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan for the period March to June 2011 be noted.

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

(a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee Programme 2010/11

Members were presented with the meeting programme which was appended to the report. The Corporate Development and Policy Manager advised that there is one more meeting programmed within the current municipal year. Due to the Purdah period, the two remaining panel reviews will be presented to the June meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Committee Programme for 2010/11 be noted.

(b) Review of Poverty Issues

Select Panel 2 had been tasked to review Poverty Issues as part of the Annual Programme of Work 2010/11. The report of the panel included thirteen recommendations with the request for approval to refer the report to Cabinet.

The Chair of the panel advised that in reviewing issues of poverty, the current approach for dealing with matters was not co-ordinated and that this needed to be addressed. He added however, that responses from partner organisations had been positive and he thanked Members involved in the review and also the Policy and Scrutiny Officer for the preparation of the report.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The recommendations of Select Panel 2 following the review of Poverty Issues be approved.
 - 2) The report be referred to Cabinet.
- (c) Briefing on Work Programme Workshop and planning for 2011/12

Members were reminded that further to the letter from the Director of Corporate Services distributed on 4th March 2011, the deadline for suggested topic titles for the proposed work programme for 2011/12 is Monday 21st March.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

- (d) Briefing on Agreement of Good Scrutiny Awards 2011 Submissions

Members were asked to consider submissions to the Good Scrutiny Awards 2011. Although Bassetlaw had been unsuccessful last year, the Corporate Development and Policy Manager reminded Members of the categories and asked for suggestions. The deadline for applications is the end of March.

A Member proposed that the select panel review of Land and Buildings in Disrepair should be submitted and this was seconded before being put to the vote.

RESOLVED that the select panel review of Land and Buildings in Disrepair be submitted to the Good Scrutiny Awards 2011 by the Corporate Development and Policy Manager.

- (e) Home Office Consultation: 'More Effective Responses to Anti-Social Behaviour'

Members were presented with a report which advised on the Home Office consultation on new measures to tackle anti-social behaviour. A copy of the consultation document was appended to the report. The Community Safety Co-ordinator advised that the role of the local authority remained largely unchanged in the proposals being made.

Members raised concerns regarding: the affect of cuts to policing budgets in tackling anti-social behaviour, the implementation of the new powers and the lack of financial resources to support them, the transfer of youth cases to Mansfield Court.

Members' views on the proposals in the consultation were requested prior to a response being sent by the due date of 3rd May 2011.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The report be received.
- 2) Members forward any comments for inclusion in the Council's response to the consultation to the Monitoring Officer before the due date of 3rd May 2011.

156. SELECT PANEL REPORTS

(a) Scrutiny Reviews 2010/11: Scrutiny Select Panels and Health Panel Updates

Members were presented with a summary of Scrutiny Select Panel and Health Panel reviews together with detailed updates on Select Panels 3 and 4. The Corporate Development and Policy Manager advised that following consideration of the review of Poverty Issues earlier on the agenda, this would be submitted to Cabinet and that the two other reviews would be presented to the June Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

RESOLVED that the update reports be noted.

SECTION B - ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE

Key Decisions

157. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET – 1ST MARCH 2011

None.

Other Decisions

158. WAIVE OF CALL IN

None.

159. POSSIBLE CALL IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET – 1ST MARCH 2011 OR BY CABINET MEMBERS

None.

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

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