

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29th October 2008

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Jones (Chairman), Councillor Mrs. Farrington (Vice-Chairman) and Councillor Atkin.

Labour Group

Councillors Bambrick, Lane and Mrs. Mead.

In Attendance

J. Jessell (Head of Urgent Care, Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust) and K. Mann (Head of Dental and Eye Care Commissioning, Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust).

APOLOGY

An apology for absence from Meeting was received from Councillor Mrs. Hood (Conservative Group).

OS/14. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September 2008 were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

OS/15. **IMPROVING LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY – CONSULTATION ON THE WHITE PAPER: COMMUNITIES IN CONTROL**

Further to the consideration of the above White Paper by the Finance and Management Committee on 23rd October 2008, it was reported that the Government had issued the first in a series of consultation documents, flowing from the Communities in Control White Paper and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The consultation sought views on how to develop overview and scrutiny powers, to hold local officers to account and how to facilitate the work of Councillors.

It was noted that the Finance and Management Committee had welcomed the proposed changes to the Overview and Scrutiny powers and considered that these demonstrated a potential training need for Members.

Appended to the report was the list of consultation questions together with suggested responses. There was a discussion on a number of the proposed responses and Officers noted the agreed amendments thereto. It was noted that the deadline for responses was 30th October 2008.

It was agreed:-

- (1) That the briefing be noted.**

- (2) That the Council responds to the 13 consultation questions, as set out in the report and incorporating the comments made by the Finance and Management and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.**
- (3) That the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Leader, Chairman of the Finance and Management Committee, the Opposition Group Leader and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be authorised to finalise the consultation response.**

OS/16. **ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE**

Further to Minute No. OS/10 of 17th September 2008, a draft review report was submitted for the Committee's consideration. Details were provided on the establishment of the Centre; developments over the last 10 years; the Centre's 5-year Vision and Strategy; its 10-year business performance and business planning results, together with a financial comparison to other supported leisure facilities in the District and other similar facilities in the region.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Leisure and Community Development for the presentation given at the previous Meeting and for the excellent report provided. Members were looking forward to receiving the new Vision and Strategy. This review document was submitted for approval and referral to the Housing and Community Services Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (1) That the completed Rosliston Forestry Centre Partnership and Business Plan be approved for submission to the Housing and Community Services Committee.**
- (2) That the Committee records its full support for the excellent partnership work being undertaken at the Rosliston Forestry Centre. It recognises the value for money that the Centre provides and makes the following recommendations to Housing and Community Services Committee.**
- (3) That the partners seek to maximise the potential for increasing income and reducing costs on an ongoing basis.**
- (4) That partners be asked to consider increased contributions to the Business Plans marketing budget on the basis that an investment in promotional work will achieve an enhanced return in site income.**
- (5) That the Committee supports the Partnership's work to secure capital funds to deliver projects that will contribute income or reduce expenditure to the Business Plan.**
- (6) That a further update of the Vision / Strategic Plan and Business Plan be brought to Committee at the start of the 2009/10 Work Programme.**

OS/17. **SCOPING OF REVIEWS**

The Committee was asked to consider the scope of the review of Partnership Working. The draft scoping document had been circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting to enable input. It was noted that the National Forest, rather than the Forestry Commission, should be included in the list of key stakeholders and consultees.

The Committee agreed the scope of the review of partnership working, subject to inclusion of the National Forest rather than the Forestry Commission, as a key stakeholder/consultee.

OS/18. **SWADLINCOTE HEALTH CENTRE – OUT OF HOURS**

The Chairman welcomed Julia Jessel, Head of Urgent Care at the Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust (PCT), who gave a presentation on the work of the Health Centre at Swadlincote. A list of questions had been circulated prior to the Meeting and further questions were invited.

The presentation included details of the role of the Derbyshire County PCT, both as a service provider and commissioner; details of the local services provided at the new Health Centre; the PCT's six strategic goals and methods of achieving them. It was noted that the PCT was in negotiation with the Queens Hospital in Burton-on-Trent, with a view to the Health Centre providing additional services. It had already been agreed that a facility for breast screening would be provided from December 2008 and it was hoped to accommodate an ambulance stand-by service in the near future. It was intended to undertake a leaflet drop to approximately 10,000 properties in the local area, to publicise the Centre and its services. Other publicity suggestions included the use of the helpdesk at the District-wide Area Forums; the "Tenants Extra" housing publication; the Council Offices' reception area and assistance from the 50+ Forum. It was suggested that the Health Centre's contact telephone number be included on the leaflets.

A number of issues were raised about the new Health Centre, including its appearance; the car parking facilities; the cost of the replacement entrance doorway; the future vision for the Centre and the provision of mental health care for primary school children. The "15-year rule" of health service buildings being "fit for purpose" was also discussed.

OS/19. **NHS DENTAL PROVISION IN SOUTH DERBYSHIRE**

The Chairman welcomed Keith Mann, Head of Dental and Eye Care Commissioning at the Derbyshire County PCT. A list of questions had been circulated prior to the Meeting, to which responses had been provided and further questions were invited.

At the new Woodville Surgery, patients were being seen within a 5-week timescale and an additional dentist had been appointed that day. It was intended to improve the opportunity for patients to see a dentist within 24 hours, where emergency treatment was required. With regard to the Swadlincote Health Centre, current staff shortages were being addressed. It was hoped to appoint a therapist who could provide advice on the improvement of oral health, which was one of the PCT's main priorities.

It was requested that the Council be provided with an updated list of NHS dental practices, which could then be publicised via the Council's website. Other issues discussed were the provision of additional graduate training practices and the redirection of PCT funding away from underperforming dental practices.

The PCT's representatives were thanked for their contribution. It was clear that there was the potential to improve communication and this would be a finding from the review.

OS/20. **SELF SCRUTINY REVIEW – BASELINE ASSESSMENT**

It was reported that, at the Scrutiny Focus session held on 29th May 2008, a number of documents had been circulated from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS), including a self-evaluation framework. It had not been possible to work through the framework document at that time, in order to provide a baseline assessment for Overview and Scrutiny at South Derbyshire.

Under Minute No. OS/13 of 17th September 2008, the Committee was asked to give initial thought to the CfPS self-evaluation framework, although it was acknowledged that the document was more suitable for Council's operating under executive arrangements. Officers had adapted the framework to make it more appropriate for South Derbyshire and a copy of the draft document had been circulated for the Committee's consideration. Members were requested to take the document away, consider its content and provide feedback to Officers in order to finalise the document at the next Meeting. It was suggested that the start time of the next Meeting be brought forward, to allow Members to work through this document.

Initial comments were made on the draft document, concerning the review of the call-in mechanism and capacity.

It was agreed that Members submit feedback on the Baseline Assessment, with a view to finalising the document at the Meeting on 10th December 2008, which would commence at 5.00 p.m.

At this point, Councillors Bambrick and Mrs. Mead left the Meeting.

OS/21. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee reviewed its work programme. In addition to the projects discussed earlier in the Meeting, updates were also provided on the Broadband and Household Drainage Reviews. It was anticipated that the Broadband Review would be concluded and the Household Drainage Review commenced at the next Meeting on 10th December 2008.

A Member had requested the addition of a review area to the Committee's Work Programme. This concerned a review of the recent decisions of two policy committees regarding the Extra Care Housing Scheme. The Committee gave initial consideration to this matter and it was suggested by Officers, that the matter be discussed formally at the next Committee Meeting.

The Committee approved the updated the Work Programme report.

C. JONES

CHAIRMAN

The Meeting terminated at 8.20 p.m.