

PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

11 May 2005

Attendance:

Councillors:

Allgood (Chairman) (P)

Beckett (P)
Bennetts (P)
Cook (P)
Chamberlain (P)
Davies (P)

Hollingbery (P)
Lipscomb (P)
Mitchell (P)
Nelmes (P)
Steel (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Campbell, Hiscock and Learney.

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Evans, Macmillan and Stallard.

1146. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received.

1147. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meetings of the Committee held on 10 January 2005 and 14 February 2005 be approved and adopted.

1148. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

1149. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman advised that a report on proposed changes to the structure of Performance Improvement Committees would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 6 June 2005. The final report of the Affordable Housing Informal Scrutiny Group would also now be considered at this meeting.

1150. **CABINET – REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENT**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Councillor Campbell, Leader of the Council.

The Leader referred to the six Key Priorities as contained within the Corporate Strategy 2004/2007. The Leader detailed Cabinet's achievements against the priorities and answered questions from the Committee.

Affordable Housing

The Committee discussed challenges in achieving targets for affordable housing. It was agreed that the Council should continue to endeavour to manage a consistent and proactive approach to their development; taking into account regional requirements, MDA proposals, partnership work with RSLs and also the impact of the South Downs National Park.

Social Inclusion

The Leader confirmed that the Council was committed to endeavouring to promote the full take-up of Benefits entitlement.

Customer Service

Following the opening of the Customer Service Centre, convenient hours of service (via telephone, internet or office opening hours) would be constantly reviewed as the unit becomes fully operational.

Economic Prosperity

It was agreed that the Winchester Town Centre required a clear economic profile and economic strategy and therefore it was agreed that the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Transport be requested to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss this matter.

Cultural and Leisure Opportunities

A Member suggested that the Council should endeavour to streamline planning procedures, as so to encourage local amenity groups to expand their facilities where necessary.

The Chairman thanked the Leader for attending the Committee and for giving the Committee the opportunity to discuss the ongoing implementation of the Key Priorities until 2007.

RESOLVED:

That Portfolio Holder for Economy and Transport be requested to attend a future meeting of the Committee to discuss formulating a profile/economic strategy for the Winchester Town Centre.

1151. **SCRUTINY REVIEW – EMERGENCY PLANNING**
(Report PS174 refers)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet be recommended to approve:

1 That in respect of assessing the scope and state of development of arrangements in place to protect the public in an event of an act of terrorism or civil disaster in or affecting the Winchester District, the preparedness of emergency planning in Winchester is satisfactory and well advanced.

2 That the Council enter into a service level agreement with Hampshire County Council for the carrying out of the City Council's duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

3 That a Cabinet Member take the lead for Emergency Planning and any continuing review. In the event of an incident the most appropriate Cabinet Member to be contacted by the media will be chosen by the Controller (Chief Executive or other nominated officer and the first person contacted in an emergency), given the nature of the event.

4 That the provision of training for Members be welcomed.

5 That an annual update report and presentation by District and County Council officers of emergency incidents to Cabinet be re-introduced.

6 That the Council's Communications Officer continues to be part of the Emergency Planning Media Plan.

7 That the City Council's liaison with Parish Councils on Emergency Planning continue to be developed, including where possible liaison with a nominated person.

8 The roles of the Council's Environmental Health Team for dealing with the risk from sewage-infected water and protecting food supplies and of the Housing team in providing for vulnerable people be noted and continue to be supported.

1152. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2005/06 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

(Report PS173 refers)

The Committee noted that this item was deferred from the meeting of the Committee held on 29 March 2005.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following topics of review and in priority order be endorsed by the Committee:

(i) Community Engagement.

(ii) Local Strategic Partnership

2. That reports be prepared on issues relating to the SERCO contract and issues relating to the external audit report on WMHA and be presented to future meetings of the Committee.

1153. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN FOR MAY 2005 AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

It was agreed that the Principal Scrutiny Committee element to the Scrutiny Work Programme be updated and made available for the meeting of the Committee on 6 June 2005. The Performance Improvement Committee section of the Work Programme would be reconfigured once the future structure of the Committees had been agreed and drafts of these pages be considered at relevant meetings of the PICs in July.

Referring to the Forward Plan for May 2005, the City Secretary and Solicitor confirmed that decisions relating to Council Office site selection would now be considered at a later date.

1154. **DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2004/05**

(Report PS177 refers)

It was agreed that at paragraph 4.2 referring to Housing Options, the Cabinet recommendation to Council on 29 June 2005 should be entered in full and cross-referred to the relevant Cabinet report. It was also agreed that at paragraph 3.2 referring to Affordable Housing, appropriate wording be added regarding the report's revised date for consideration by Principal Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman suggested that any further comments regarding the report, including those from the Chairman of the Performance Improvement Committees, be e-mailed to him so that any revisions can be taken into account before publication of the report and presentation to Council on 29 June 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the additions and amendments as suggested above be incorporated into the Annual Scrutiny Report for presentation to Council on 29 June 2005.

1155. **MINUTES OF PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEES**

- (i) Minutes of Central Services Performance Improvement Committee held 29 March 2005.
(Report PS175 Extract of Minutes refers)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Central Services Performance Improvement Committee held on 22 March 2005 be received.

1156. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
1157	Depot Services Contract – Review of Performance.	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (other than the authority). (Para 7 Schedule 12A refers).

1157. **DEPOT SERVICES CONTRACT – REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE**
(Report PS176 refers)

The Committee considered a report that set out performance of the Depot Services contract. Representatives of the contractor's senior management were in attendance to answer questions as were relevant Portfolio Holders (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 4.00 pm and concluded at 6.15 pm.