

**PRINCIPAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**13 April 2006**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Allgood (Chairman) (P)

Beckett (P)  
Bidgood (P)  
Cook (P)  
Clohosey (P)  
Chamberlain

Davies (P)  
Lipscomb (P)  
Mitchell  
Stallard (P)  
Steel (P)

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1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Chamberlain.

2. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman made no announcements.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

4. **CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS UNDER THE COMMITTEE'S POWERS OF CALL-IN**

(i) **INSURANCE RESERVE REVIEW**  
(Report CAB1233 refers)

The Committee noted that Cabinet had approved the proposals as set out in the Report at its meeting held earlier that day.

The Director of Finance clarified that it was prudent to maintain a balance within the Insurance Reserve due to a lack of information regarding previous claims history in respect of any liabilities with the previous insurer, Municipal Insurance (MMI). However, the provision would continue to be reviewed annually. A Member queried how the recommended provision for retention (£185,000) was calculated and the Director stated that she would clarify this by email to him.

RESOLVED:

That the decision of the meeting of Cabinet held on 13 April 2006 regarding release of £125,000 from the Insurance Fund Reserves, be not called-in for review.

## 5. **MINUTES OF SCRUTINY PANELS**

The Committee considered the minutes of the following meetings:

- (i) Environment Scrutiny Panel held 13 March 2006  
(Report CAB1244 refers)
- (ii) Local Economy Scrutiny Panel held 15 March 2006  
(Report CAB1255 refers)
- (iii) Social Issues Scrutiny Panel held 16 March 2006  
(Report CAB1256 refers)
- (iv) Resources Scrutiny Panel held 21 March 2006  
(Report CAB1257 refers)

The City Secretary and Solicitor advised that the minutes of the above Scrutiny Panels were also considered at the meeting of Cabinet held earlier that day.

The Chairman reported that the Scrutiny Chairs Liaison Meeting to be held later that afternoon would discuss the 2006/07 Scrutiny Work Programme. The Meeting would also refer to suggestions for items made by the Scrutiny Panels.

During consideration of the minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel, Members supported the proposals for in-depth reviews of South Downs National Park and its impact on the Local Plan and also a review of street scene issues within the District.

During consideration of the minutes of the Resources Scrutiny Panel, Members referred to its discussion of the role of scrutiny in relation to the Council achieving its Gershon efficiency targets. The Chairman suggested that this be considered in detail by the Scrutiny Chairs Liaison Meeting. The Committee also referred to its previous meeting where Members had supported a proposal by Councillor Hollingbery (Chairman of the Resources Scrutiny Panel) for Principal Scrutiny Committee to carry out an in-depth post-implementation review of the recommendations of the previous Business Plans Informal Scrutiny Group.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Environment Scrutiny Panel held 13 March 2006, Local Economy Scrutiny Panel held 15 March 2006, Social Issues Scrutiny Panel held 16 March 2006 and Resources Scrutiny Panel held 21 March 2006, be received and recommendations therein endorsed.

## 6. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. 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>
##	Offices Options	) Information relating to the ) financial or business affairs of ) any particular person (including ) the authority holding that ) information). (Para 3 Schedule ) 12A refers)

7. **CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS UNDER THE COMMITTEE'S POWERS OF CALL-IN**

- (i) **OFFICES OPTIONS**  
(Report CAB1258 refers)

The Committee considered a Report which set out various options (detail in exempt minute).

The meeting commenced at 2 pm and concluded at 3.40 pm