

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL – PLACES

held in the Council Chamber,
Council Offices, Adam and Eve Street, Market Harborough

27th January 2011

commencing at 6.30p.m.

Present: Councillor King (Chairman)

Councillors: Dewes, Hart (Ex Officio), Holyoak, Robinson, Simpson, Tooley and Mrs Wood.

Also present

Councillors: Galton, Dr. S. Hill, Knowles, Ackerley and Charlish.

Officers: M. Bradford, K. Mehta, B Culpin, E. O'Neill, B. Jolly,
N. Proudfoot and D. Peacock

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Everett (Portfolio Holder), Hallam, M. Smith and Roeber.

492 NOTIFICATION OF SUSBTITUTIONS

Councillor Holyoak substituted for Councillor M. Smith.

Councillor Robinson substituted for Councillor Roeber.

493 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Scrutiny Panel Places held on 16th December 2010 to be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

494 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None were received

495 SECTION 100A(4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The matter of the Call-in of the Executive Decision – Potential Opportunity to Acquire Land was suggested for consideration in the absence of the press and public. It was the Scrutiny Panel's wish that this item be dealt with in this manner and the following resolution was passed to comply with the Local Government Act:

'that, except for those Members present not being Members of this Panel, the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matters yet to be discussed involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.'

496 POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE LAND

The Panel RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) the delay imposed by the Call-in be removed and no further recommendation be forwarded to the Executive.
- (ii) the Sensitive Issues Procedure should be used in instances such as this.
- (iii) Ward Members always be consulted on sensitive issues.

497 PORTFOLIO PLANS 2011/12

B. Jolly, Head of Change Services, introduced this item. The Panel was asked to receive and consider draft Portfolio Development Plans for Environmental Service Delivery, Housing Infrastructure and Planning and Local Business and Enterprise and to make comments to go to the Executive on 14th February 2011.

The Portfolio Development Plans set out the planned actions for each Executive Portfolio based on the available resources identified through the business planning process. The Panel considered each Portfolio in turn.

Environmental Service Delivery Portfolio

Councillor Charlish, Portfolio Holder, and M. Bradford, Head of Community Service, presented the Environmental Service Delivery Portfolio Development Plan for 2011/12. Questions and comments were invited.

The Panel NOTED that:

- (i) National performance indicators have been abolished however the Council is still collecting performance indicator data for monitoring purposes until, at least, the end of this municipal year.

The Panel RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) further analysis of how 'risk ratings' are defined in Portfolio Plans be undertaken.
- (ii) the Executive carefully consider the impact on voluntary organisations following withdrawal of funding for The Settling Rooms.
- (iii) the Portfolio Plan go forward to the Executive as set out.

Housing Infrastructure and Planning Portfolio

Councillor Mrs. Ackerley, Portfolio Holder, and B. Culpin, Head of Built Environment Services, presented the Housing Infrastructure and Planning Portfolio Development Plan for 2011/12. Questions and comments were invited.

The Panel NOTED that risks are associated with failing to delivery the Council's five-year housing supply target. Item NI159 of the Portfolio Plan identifies this risk. It is anticipated that this target will be met by the beginning of the next municipal year.

The Panel RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) the Executive consider carefully the impact of the reduction in support for Housing advice (budget code BE13).
- (ii) the Portfolio Plan go forward to the Executive as set out.

Local Business Enterprise Plan Portfolio

Councillor Mrs. Ackerley presented the Local Business and Enterprise Portfolio Development Plan for 2011/12 on behalf of Councillor Everett, Portfolio Holder.

The Panel NOTED that:

- (i) Harborough Innovation Centre is due to be completed during summer 2011. A target of 40% has been set for initial number of units let.
- (ii) The Council-hosted Business Networking Events have been attended by representatives across the district. The Council could improve these events by including the voluntary sector.

The Panel RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) further information on the Council's policy for the letting of the Harborough Innovation Centre business units be provided to Members.
- (ii) The Voluntary Sector should be included in Council initiatives to help business.
- (iii) The Portfolio Plan go forward to the Executive as set out.

Meeting ended 9.15pm