

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE RESOURCE AND PERFORMANCE  
SCRUTINY PANEL

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

4<sup>th</sup> October 2012

commencing at 6.30p.m.

Present:

Councillor Dr. Bremner (Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission in the Chair).

Councillors: Bannister, Dewes, Galton, Hall Holyoak, Johnson, Knowles,  
Smith, Tomlin and Mrs. Wood.

Officers: D. Mc Kenzie, E. O'Neill, N. Proudfoot.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Evans (Councillor Tomlin substituted).

245 NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTION

Councillor Tomlin substituted for Councillor Evans.

246 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None received.

247 CALL-IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION ON STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREA MASTERPLAN

At its Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 the Executive considered a report on the Strategic Development Area Master Plan.

At its Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012 the Executive resolved that:

- (i) the SDA comprise the highest possible amount of houses in order to maximise its ability to meet the majority of Market Harborough's future housing land requirement;
- (ii) the area of the SDA comprise a combination of residential Options B, C and D and provide for between 1,500 and 1,800 houses in the period up to 2031;
- (iii) housing numbers across the SDA be phased, providing up to 1000 houses in the period 2012 – 2022, and between 500 and 800 houses in the period 2023 – 2031;
- (iv) employment Option G of up to 13.4ha to be taken forward as the location for meeting a significant proportion of Market Harborough's future employment land supply;
- (v) the consortium of landowners and developers with interests in the SDA be invited to jointly prepare a detailed Master plan; and
- (vi) Corporate Management Team review the resources required in order to effectively manage the delivery of the master plan and the risks associated at this critical stage, and in liaison with the Portfolio Holder allocate from the LDF Reserve Fund the necessary resources required.
- (vii) the Master plan review when completed will be presented to full Council at the first available opportunity.

A request for a Call-in of the Executive's decision was received from eight Councillors. The request for the Call-in stated that:

"In line with Page 79, Part 4 of Harborough District Council Constitution, Section 5 - 5.01 and Page 81/82:

The detail laid out in the so called Strategic Development Master Plan, decided upon under report one to the Executive Meeting of Wednesday September 19th 2012 was an item with substantial financial, environmental, structural, future planning issues, cultural and quality of life significance to the Council and the District we serve. It is an item that impacts on all wards of the Council, within Market Harborough and the surrounding area in particular, but the whole of the District in general. It is potentially of considerable impact to all or many of the communities we serve and has not been subject to significant public consultation on the impact of 1800 homes specifically or questionably, to full Scrutiny in its entirety by the appropriate Scrutiny body within the Council.

We have a duty to ensure that decisions taken are the best for the people we serve and that all areas of significant concern, distress or impact to individuals has been considered in full along with maximising the opportunity to explore advantages and disadvantages.

This is an item that has emanated from the Executive and would only be presented to Full Council in the form of a full and complete Master Plan offering, as Officers have confirmed, no opportunity to amend at presentation any or part of the included information/ points.

Against this backcloth we have to ask, have the majority of members had the opportunity to scrutinise the item in full? We request that this item be called into Scrutiny for full debate, investigation and consideration, allowing Scrutiny the opportunity to consider the matter properly after which Scrutiny may then make appropriate recommendations and observations to the Executive.

This will also serve to allow all members other than the Executive to consider this subject in its entirety and to ensure that they have the opportunity to request all and any appropriate information to assist in their considerations to assist us in delivering the best possible future, service and benefit to our community. We would request that the Leader of the Council be asked to attend the meeting to enable Scrutiny to raise points and questions as appropriate"

Signed - Councillors Simon Galton - Sarah Hill - Roger Dunton - Peter Callis - Barbara Johnson - Phil Knowles - Julie Simpson, Amanda Burrell."

The request for the Call-in was agreed as being in compliance with the Council's Constitution by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission and B. Jolly, Assistant Director Corporate Resources (acting as Deputy Chief Executive). The effect of calling-in these decisions was to halt implementation of the decisions.

At the Meeting two documents were tabled. These were comments from Councillors King (attached at Appendix A to these Minutes) and Mrs. Page (attached at Appendix B to these Minutes).

The Panel heard representations from Members of the public, Parish Councillors and District Councillors. The points raised included concerns about: insufficient public consultation, potential increase in traffic in the area, highway safety, misleading evidence, access to the A6 road, detrimental environmental impact, detrimental heritage impact, detrimental wildlife impact, departure from Council Planning Policy, inadequacy of sewer provision and inadequacy of proposed mitigative measures.

Having listened to the representations, the Executive's Decisions were debated and the Panel

**RESOLVED:** to make no recommendation to the Executive. The effect of this resolution was to remove the halt on the implementation of the Executive Decisions.

The Meeting ended at 8.35p.m.