

**CORPORATE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2007
(FROM 5.30 PM TP 6.35 PM)**

PRESENT: Don MacKenzie in the Chair. Councillors Anthony Alton, Phillip Broadbank, John Fox, Harrison, Elwyn Hinchcliffe, John Lockhart and Nigel Simms.

Late Arrivals: None.

Early Departures: None.

1/06 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES:

Notification had been received that Councillor Don MacKenzie was to act as a substitute for Councillor Jim Clark. There were no apologies for absence.

(5.30 pm)

2/06 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Councillor Broadbank declared a personal interest in relation to any reference to the Harrogate International Festival in relation to the Draft General Fund Revenue Budget, on the basis that one quarter of one percent of his employer's turnover came from the Harrogate International Festival.

(5.30 pm)

3/06 - EXEMPT INFORMATION: There were no exempt information items.

(5.30 pm)

4/06 - PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS: There were no questions to consider.

(5.30 pm)

MATTERS FOR REPORT

5/06 - STANDARDS COMMITTEE – TERMS OF REFERENCE/GOVERNANCE

PANEL: The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a written report inviting the Corporate Commission to consider the Governance Panel's recommendation to approve a request from the Standards Committee to allow an Independent Member of that Committee to be co-opted to the Governance Panel.

In addition, the Commission were also invited to consider the involvement of the Governance Panel in the payment of any significant amount of compensation under Section 92 of the Local Government Act (LGA) 2000 in respect of actual or possible maladministration.

The recommendations as printed in the report were then moved and seconded, and on a vote being taken were unanimously **agreed**.

(5.31 pm – 5.35 pm)

CORPORATE COMMISSION

6/06 - **DRAFT GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET:** The Chairman referred to the Draft General Fund Revenue Budget for 2007/2008 and its recent consideration by the Council's Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Commissions.

The Scrutiny Officer circulated details of the views and comments of the Commissions in relation to the budget together with three recommendations for consideration by the Corporate Commission. It was agreed as part of the budget process that a report would be drafted by the Scrutiny Officer which would set out the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's views in relation to the budget for 2007/2008 which would be considered by Cabinet on the 6th February 2007.

The Chair referred to a letter dated 12 January 2007 from the Executive Director (Corporate Policy and Improvement) which set out the process for the scrutiny of the budget, highlighted the role of the Corporate Commission, together with the parameters for consideration of the budget by the Commission. The Chair also confirmed that opposition groups could submit an alternative budget, should they wish for it to be considered for scrutiny. An alternative budget had not been submitted and it was noted that an alternative could be submitted when Council considered the Draft General Fund Revenue Budget 2007/08.

At the Chair's request, the Scrutiny Officer then referred to a spreadsheet that listed the outcomes, by Commission, of the consideration of the 2007/2008 budget.

The Commission considered those comments set out within the spreadsheet and tabled questions in relation to the following: -

- The funding allocations for single status;
- The effect of interest rate rises;
- The growth item for the Family Mediation Service;
- IT investment in future years;
- The potential withdrawal of Craven District Council from the CCTV Partnership;
- The funding identified in the 2007/2008 budget for recycling, what this funding would provide; public awareness of the costs for recycling and the future scrutiny of the issue of recycling;
- The growth item for the Harrogate International Festival, the support of other festivals in the District and potential funding in future years;
- The savings identified to be achieved in Leisure, Museums and Arts in 2007/08 and future years and the proposed management restructure to contribute to achieving these.

The Chair thanked the Commission for their comments, and invited Members to consider the recommendations to Cabinet. A separate vote on each of the recommendations was requested.

It was moved and seconded that the Cabinet consider the comments of the various Overview and Scrutiny Commissions in finalising the Revenue budget for 2007/2008. On a vote being taken, this recommendation was unanimously **agreed**.

CORPORATE COMMISSION

It was moved and seconded that the Administration's proposed Revenue budget for 2007/2008 be approved by the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Commission. On a vote being taken, five Members voted for the recommendation and there were three abstentions. The recommendation was **agreed**.

It was moved and seconded that the Scrutiny Officer prepare a report for the Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Commission to present the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's comments to Cabinet. On a vote being taken, this recommendation was unanimously **agreed**.

(5.30 pm – 6.35 pm)