

**ORGANISATION IMPROVEMENT & ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
HELD ON 3 MARCH 2008
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 6.40 PM)**

PRESENT: Councillor Hawke in the Chair. Councillors Galloway, Chris Lewis, Bob Nash, Newby, Willis and Willoughby.

Late Arrivals: Councillor Chris Lewis at 5.37 pm.

Early Departures: None.

63/07 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF

SUBSTITUTES: Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Reg Marsh and Peter Phillips. Notification had been received that Councillor Bob Nash was to act as substitute for Councillor Mrs Atkinson.

(5.30 pm)

64/07 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

(5.30 pm)

65/07 - MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 16 January 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Five Members voted for the motion and there was one abstention.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 21 January 2008 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Four Members voted for the motion and two voted against)

(5.31 pm)

66/07 – EXEMPT INFORMATION: There were no exempt information items.

(5.32 pm)

67/07 – PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS: There were no questions to consider pursuant to Standing Order 27.

(5.32 pm)

**SCRUTINY MATTERS AND REVIEWS UNDERTAKEN BY THE
COMMISSION**

68/07 - PCT MODERNISATION - FINANCIAL RECOVER PLAN: Further to Minute 06/07, the Chair invited Mr John Brown, Director of Corporate Affairs and Communications at the PCT and Mrs Debbie Newton, Assistant Director of Finance at the PCT to address the Commission. Mr Brown provided an update on the work

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carried out by the PCT during the last six months and outlined the healthcare services that North Yorkshire and York PCT were responsible for. The PCT had a current operating budget of £1 billion with approximately 5,000 employees and approximately 4,600 of which were responsible for front line services. He reported on the inherited debt from the previous organisations and detailed the financial recovery plan and it was noted that they were on course to clear existing debt and plan for future investments by April 2009. He referred to the practice based commissioning which engaged all clinicians with GP's being responsible for their own budgets.

Mrs Newton then reported on the latest financial position of the PCT and she advised that £20m savings (£40m target) had been achieved in 2007/08 through alternative approaches and without the need for service cuts. It was envisaged that the remaining £19m deficit would be paid during the 2008/09 financial year and it was also anticipated that £10m of savings would also be made. The overall aim was for the PCT to break even by the end of the 2008/09 financial year.

Questions were then invited. One Member queried the partnership work undertaken by the PCT in relation to shared clinical services and Mrs Newton commented that this was incorporated as part of practice based commissioning. In response to a query regarding the working relationship with the voluntary and community sector and the funding available to the Local Strategic Partnerships (LSP), Mr Brown advised that the PCT had an agreement with the Local Strategic Partnership, NYCC and District Councils and that funding for the LSP's was announced as early as possible. With regard to public engagement, it was reported that the PCT had developed a Public and Patient Engagement Strategy as well as a development plan which included the commitment to engage with user groups. In response to a query regarding the Home Energy Conservation Act and its relationship with treating hypothermia, Mr Brown agreed to provide a response to the Members.

One Member queried the car parking costs at Harrogate hospital and it was noted that as the hospital was operated as a Foundation Trust they were responsible for setting their own fees and charges. The PCT also agreed to provide a response in relation to the current position of the potential health centre at Westmoreland Street, Harrogate.

The Chair thanked the officers for their attendance.

(5.33 pm - 6.08 pm)

69/07 - **PLANNING SERVICE REVIEW:** Further to Minute 09/07, the Performance Manager submitted a written report which included as an appendix the final report on the Planning Service Review. The report detailed how the Planning Service Review met the four principles of Best Value; Compare; Challenge; Compete and Consult. The Commission **agreed** the timetable for reporting the Service Improvement Plan and the report was noted.

(6.08 pm - 6.10 pm)

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70/07 - REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION OF ITEMS IN FUTURE WORK

PROGRAMME: The Scrutiny Officer reported that at the last meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Board they had agreed that the Commission should scrutinise the cost of staging public events, involving road closures and highways issues, and that other work would require to be delayed as a result as this was a priority and this was **agreed**. It was also **agreed** that this should be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.

(6.32 pm - 6.38 pm)

MATTERS HOLDING THE EXECUTIVE TO ACCOUNT

71/07 - PERFORMANCE REPORT - QUARTER THREE, 2007/08: The Performance Manager submitted a written report and delivered a presentation regarding the quarter three performance for 2007/08 in relation to those aspects which fell within the remit of the Commission. She referred to the Corporate Basket of Performance Indicators, the Corporate Improvement Plan and the Strategic Plan and highlighted those indicators which had and had not met their targets.

She reported that 19 (83%) of the Commission's PI's had met their target and there were two which had not which were in relation to the percentage of invoices paid in time (BV08) and the amount by which the average unemployment rate in the District, excluding towns with a population of 10,000, was less than the district average (LED30). It was also noted that there were two PI's that had almost met their target. Members discussed PI (BV08) and it was **agreed** that a response from the Department of Community Services regarding its performance be requested. Members also queried the omission of HR sickness statistics and it was commented that it would be appropriate for these to be presented to the Human Resources Committee on an annual basis. In relation to those actions in the Strategic Plan which had been delayed due to the pending appointment of the Executive Director (DCPI), Members considered it appropriate that these items should now be reviewed by the Assistant Chief Executive.

(6.11 pm - 6.32 pm)

72/07 - FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS: The Commission considered the key decisions which fell within its remit.

(6.38 pm - 6.40 pm)