

SCRUTINY MATTERS AND REVIEWS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

05/09 - REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION OF ITEMS IN FUTURE WORK

PROGRAMME: The Scrutiny Officer circulated a summary of previously identified work items and explained the new process by which new work items could be identified. Under new legislation there would be an expectation that Overview and Scrutiny would review the work of partner organisations through Local Area Agreement (LAA) performance information. Powers had also been introduced for Overview and Scrutiny to request information/attendance by partner organisations to review issues of local concern. This would be very much a partnership approach and to reflect this partner organisations, voluntary and community sector bodies and members of the public could bring forward issues for review and the Commission would be able to choose those it wished to focus upon. It was proposed that all partner organisations would be contacted and asked to suggest issues for review. They could also be invited to attend a workshop with the Commission where issues would be identified and discussed. The Commission would then prioritise all issues proposed and formulate a work programme for the year. It was **agreed** that this should be undertaken and that a workshop be arranged possibly for September 2009.

The Commission considered the previously identified items on the summary sheet, the Scrutiny Officer outlined the progress made on each and emphasised that the Commission should take a view about progressing each item of work. It was reported that the Car Parking Policy Working Group was undertaking an in-depth review and had recently agreed its recommendations, with the review nearing completion. It was noted that a public meeting would be held, possibly in August 2009, and that the final report would be considered by the Commission.

In relation to the review on alcohol related hospital admissions, the Scrutiny Officer reported that available data had been analysed and the PCT contacted to confirm the findings. It was **agreed** that this would be the Commission's next major piece of work after the completion of the Car Parking review, and the scoping stage of the review would follow in due course. Members were asked to note that the Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police would be attending a special Commission meeting scheduled for 7 September 2009 in order to discuss policing priorities and the Commission **agreed** that this could be combined with a follow up on Council and Police policy regarding the holding and policing of public events on the highway. The Scrutiny Officer reported that the meeting would follow the same format as previous invitations to the Chief Constable, and that all Members would be contacted to submit questions prior to the meeting.

Other issues that could be followed up included homelessness, on which an update report on the current situation could be submitted, and the Climate Change Strategy, the final version of which could be received prior to Cabinet consideration. The Head of Parks and Open Spaces could report to the Commission on the use of commuted sums for the restoration of Valley Gardens, the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership (HDSP) could report back on progress made with new governance arrangements, and a report on performance at Brimhams Fitness Centre could be considered at a future

meeting of the Commission following full introduction of the Corporate Membership Scheme. It was **agreed** that these items would be considered by the Commission and that the Scrutiny Officer should progress them.

It was reported that an update on the Cultural Services Resource Reallocation could be received at the Commission's next meeting on 20 July 2009 and this was **agreed**. The Scrutiny Officer also reported that Councillor Grange had been the Council's scrutiny representative on the North Yorkshire County Council Joint Review of Flooding and that this group was currently agreeing its final report. It was **agreed** that the report should be considered by the Commission at its meeting on 21 September 2009 at the Claro Road Depot. The issue previously raised by Councillor Ian Galloway as to the necessity/function of the Harrogate and Craven District Transport Forums was considered not to require any follow up as Councillor Galloway reported that a Joint Transport Forum for the Harrogate and Craven Districts was to be set up by the North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership (NYSP).

There was consideration of key decision DCS/FP159, the review of Waste Management Strategy and expansion of kerbside recycling service, key decision DCS/FP171, the recycling contract for mixed recyclables, and a review of the transfer of the Highways Agency Agreement and the impact of concessionary fares, and it was **agreed** that these items be considered if possible. Members of the Commission then put forward additional items for consideration including an update on the redevelopment of HIC and the use of the Little Red Bus. It was **agreed** that the Commission would request an update on the exact position of the HIC redevelopment project for a future meeting.

The issue of the siting of taxi ranks generally within Harrogate and/or the District, taking into account the traffic, public order and licensing considerations was also proposed for review and it was **agreed** that this would be considered with other major review items after the workshop in September 2009.

It was confirmed that proposals were being developed to include the Commission in considering the Business Transformation Project, and as part of this, the Commission considered that a survey on public views of the Council's website should be carried out.

It was noted that work should continue on the Plain English campaign to ensure that the public had a clearer understanding of the work of the Council and this included the production of reports to the Commission.

In response to a question from Councillor Stan Beer, the Scrutiny Officer **agreed** to find out whether Minutes of the meetings of the Corporate Management Team (CMT) could be circulated to Members.

(5.33 pm - 5.58 pm)