

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMISSION
HELD ON 20 JULY 2009
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 7.15 PM)**

PRESENT: Councillor John Fox in the Chair. Councillors Bayliss, Stan Beer, Ian Galloway, Bill Houtt, Martin Leather, Pat Marsh, Reg Marsh, Bob Nash, Willis, Willoughby and Wren.

Late Arrivals: Councillor Stan Beer at 5.32 pm.

Early Departures: Councillor Bob Nash at 6.20 pm.
Councillor Bayliss at 7.10 pm
Councillor Stan Beer at 7.10 pm.
Councillor Wren at 7.10 pm.

14/09 - APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF SUBSTITUTES:
Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Atkinson and Pauline McHardy. Notification had been received that Councillor Martin Leather was to act as substitute for Councillor Nick Brown and Councillor Wren for Councillor Jim Clark.

(5.30 pm)

15/09 - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no such declarations.

(5.31 pm)

16/09 - MINUTES: The Minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 29 June 2009 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Eight Members voted for the motion and there were three abstentions)

(5.31 pm)

17/09 - EXEMPT INFORMATION: There were no exempt items to consider.

(5.32 pm)

18/09 - PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS - QUESTIONS: There were no such questions to consider.

(5.33 pm)

MATTERS HOLDING EXECUTIVE/PARTNERS TO ACCOUNT

19/09 - CULTURAL INVESTMENT RESOURCE REALLOCATION 10 YEAR INVESTMENT PROGRAMME: The Director of Community Services submitted a written report which recommended a 10-year programme of investment in Cultural Services (Leisure, Museums & Arts, Parks & Open Spaces) infrastructure and facilities, funded from their Investment Reserves. Councillor Cooper (Cabinet Member for Cultural Services) introduced the report and the Director of Community Services, the Head of Leisure, Museums and Arts (LMA), the Head of Parks and

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Open Spaces and the Area Operations Manager (Leisure, Museums and Arts) were in attendance to answer questions.

The 10 year Resource Reallocations for Leisure, Museums and Arts and Parks and Open Spaces were attached as Appendices B1 and C1 respectively. The Director of Community Services advised that the report had been considered by CMT at its meeting on 16 July 2009 where they had recommended a stronger caveat regarding the impact of the uncertain prospects for public spending for 2011/12 and beyond. He also added that recommendation 2.3 of the report had been amended to refer to Cabinet instead of the Cabinet Member (Cultural Services) and would be subject to annual review.

Referring to the investment reserves as detailed in Appendix A, the Chair queried the savings in relation to the Sun Pavilion and Marketing Manager. The Head of LMA reported that these had resulted from a restructure in 2007 and a resulting review of marketing operations which had culminated in the transfer of management of the Sun Pavilion and associated staff from the Department of Community Services to the Harrogate International Centre. The Area Operations Manager then answered a number of questions regarding the planned works to Rossett Sports Centre and Coppice Nursery and, in relation to the latter, he advised that the £23,000 allocated was for new hard wearing laminate flooring and decoration and that the planned renewal for these items would be reviewed regularly.

In relation to satisfaction surveys at 7.6 of the report, Councillor Bayliss suggested that the Royal Hall should be included with the other facilities listed and this was **agreed**. The resource allocation of £230,000 to Knaresborough Castle was also queried and the Director of Community Services stated that Cabinet had committed to a conservation management plan as a framework for future management and development of the Castle and this included £200,000 towards a joint scheme, conditional upon securing partnership and lottery funding.

Members discussed the issue of income generated from the sponsorship of roundabouts and the potential loss of this income and effect on staff if, after 2012, NYCC decided to terminate the agreement for HBC to market and retain the sponsorship. The Head of Parks and Open Spaces acknowledged the concern and commented that the loss would leave a gap in resources and the issue needed to be discussed further with NYCC. It was **agreed** that the Cabinet Member would write to the Harrogate Dales Tourism Partnership seeking support for the retention of HBC control of the sponsored roundabouts.

One Member queried the loss of play schemes at Boroughbridge Leisure Centre and the Cabinet Member advised that the schemes had to be cancelled due to a lack of take up and those who had enrolled at Boroughbridge had been offered an alternative scheme elsewhere. He also added that Boroughbridge High School had taken over management and operation of the leisure centre.

The recommendations, as detailed in the report and as amended above, were unanimously **agreed** and the Chair thanked the officers and Cabinet Member for their attendance.

(5.33 pm - 6.20 pm)

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20/09 - HARROGATE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2008 - 2011 REFRESH & SAFER COMMUNITIES ANNUAL REPORT

2008/09: A joint report by the Head of Public Protection and the Community Safety and CCTV Manager was submitted which informed Members of the Safer Communities Annual Report 2008-09 and the Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2008-11 Refresh, both of which were attached to the report. The Community Safety and CCTV Manager advised that the Harrogate District Safer Communities Partnership (CDRP) had produced the annual report for the period 2008/09 which illustrated the work undertaken to deliver the first year of the three year Partnership Plan (2008-2011).

Questions were invited. The Chair queried the role played by the Annual Safer Communities Conference and the Community Safety and CCTV Manager advised that the conference was an opportunity for the CDRP to showcase particular projects and it also gave an opportunity for engagement with partners. In relation to the Safer Roads section on page 13 of the Partnership Plan 2008-2011 Refresh, Councillor Pat Marsh commented that reference should be made to residential areas and, in particular, areas outside schools. Referring to the Partnership Process on page 8 of the Partnership Plan, the Chair suggested that the Harrogate District Strategic Partnership be included. The Community Safety and CCTV Manager **agreed** to take these suggestions back to the Safer Communities Executive. Councillor Bayliss queried how performance measures in relation to a reduction in people killed or seriously injured in road traffic collisions were set and it was noted that these were set every three years by Local Area Agreement (LAA). Referring to Page 12 of the Partnership Plan, Councillor Stan Beer asked what was being done to reduce the number of hospital admissions for alcohol related incidences. The Community Safety and CCTV Manager stated that the CDRP was currently undertaking an Accident and Emergency Alcohol Project in conjunction with Harrogate District Accident and Emergency Department. The project allowed for information to be gathered from those attending A & E on a Friday and Saturday night tracking alcohol and links to violent crime. The project would continue to run through 2009 so that more data could be captured. She further advised that there was also the Harrogate Pubwatch scheme which aimed to provide a safe, secure and social drinking environment for all licensed premises in Harrogate and helped to reduce drink-related crime. The group consisted of licensees, the licensing authority, North Yorkshire Police and other responsible authorities. Councillor Martin Leather queried how the CDRP engaged with local communities and it was noted that Safer Neighbourhood Groups had been established in some areas, although there was still development to be done in this regard.

In relation to the Harrogate and District Safer Communities Partnership Annual Report 2008/09, Members wished to see greater detail in relation to the expenditure of the Partnership and that a breakdown of expenditure should be included in the report. Members also raised concern at the number of targets in relation to crime in the local area that had not been met and they stated that they would have liked to have seen other members of the CDRP present to address Members questions.

It was **agreed** that both the Safer Communities Annual Report 2008-09 and the Safer Communities Partnership Plan 2008-11 Refresh be brought back to the meeting of the Commission on the 21 September 2009 if possible, with a detailed breakdown of expenditure in relation to the CDRP and greater information in relation

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to the issues and comments raised above. It was also **agreed** that the Cabinet Member (Public Protection Protection & Rural Affairs) be invited to attend.

The Chair thanked the officer for her attendance.

(6.30 pm - 6.55 pm)

21/09 - **FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS:** The Commission considered the Forward Plan of Key Decisions and requested further information in relation to the District Leisure Card Scheme and the Amalgamation of Public Buildings Maintenance Contract. In relation to the latter, the Scrutiny Officer advised that he had requested further details from the Department but he was still awaiting a response. The Chair **agreed** to follow this up.

(6.55 pm - 7.00 pm)

SCRUTINY MATTERS AND REVIEWS UNDERTAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

22/09 - **REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION OF ITEMS IN FUTURE WORK**

PROGRAMME: The Scrutiny Officer circulated a draft work programme for 2009/10 which detailed the three meetings of the Commission which were taking place in September. It also detailed other areas of work and when these were likely to be considered. He also circulated a draft programme for the Scrutiny of the Budget for 2010/11.

In relation to the draft work programme 2009/10 it was **agreed** that the Harrogate and District Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-11 Refresh & Safer Communities Annual Report 2008/09 be included on the Agenda for the 21 September meeting if possible, in line with Minute 20/09 above.

With this inclusion, the draft Work Programme for 2009/10 and the draft programme for the Scrutiny of the Budget 2010/11 were **approved**.

(7.00 pm - 7.10 pm)

23/09 - **REPORT BACK FROM PANELS AND WORKING GROUPS:** The Scrutiny Officer advised that a public meeting for the Car Parking Policy Working Group was likely to take place on Wednesday 12 August and possible venues were currently being explored.

(7.10 pm - 7.11 pm)

24/09 - **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE:** The Scrutiny Officer sought suggestions for performance measures to monitor the work of the Commission. A checklist of work was suggested and it was **agreed** that the item be included on the Agenda for the meeting of 21 September so that it could be discussed in greater detail.

(7.11 pm - 7.15 pm)