

**ORGANISATION IMPROVEMENT & ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW  
AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION  
HELD ON 11 SEPTEMBER 2006  
(FROM 5.30 PM TO 6.25 PM)**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Atkinson in the Chair. Councillors Robin Adderley, Galloway, Grange, Hawke, Newby, Parnaby, Peter Phillips and Willoughby.

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Andrew Jones (Cabinet Member Finance and Resources)

**Late Arrivals:** Councillor Grange at 5.32 pm.

**Early Departures:** None.

18/06 - **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NOTIFICATION OF**

**SUBSTITUTES:** Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors R Marsh and Trotter.

(5.30 pm)

19/06 - **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** A declaration of interest was made as detailed in Minute 23/06.

(5.30 pm)

20/06 - **MINUTES:** The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment Commission held on 20 July 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

(5.31 pm)

21/06 – **EXEMPT INFORMATION:** There were no exempt information items.

(5.31 pm)

22/06 – **PUBLIC ARRANGEMENTS – QUESTIONS:** There were no questions to consider pursuant to Standing Order No 27.

(5.31 pm)

**SCRUTINY CONSULTATION**

23/06 - **BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE - PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PRIMARY CARE CENTRE AT WESTMORELAND STREET, HARROGATE:**

(Councillor Robin Adderley declared a personal interest in this item on the basis that the doctors surgery he used was one of the four surgeries to be relocated at the new centre at Westmoreland Street, Harrogate). Lynda Wigley, Director of Primary Care, Patient and Public Involvement attended the meeting and gave a presentation

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regarding the above proposal. She advised that a new Primary Care Centre on Westmoreland Street, Harrogate, was proposed and would incorporate four existing surgeries and, in addition, some extra community health facilities. Approximately 30,000 patients were to use the new centre and the four surgeries to be based at the Westmoreland Street Health Centre were:

- The Surgery, East Parade;
- Park Parade Surgery;
- St Luke's Medical Practice; and
- The Spa Surgery

The practices were to share premises but would maintain their own independence and all other practices in the town centre were unaffected. In relation to the General Practitioners (GPs), she reported that they had a contract with the NHS but actually operated independently. The PCT were responsible for funding local health services such as hospital care and GPs and also making sure that members of the public were consulted upon any major changes in health service. In relation to the proposal and the need for change, she reported that the existing surgeries were mostly old and many of which were in town houses and were not well suited to modern healthcare with poor access particularly for disabled people. There was also no scope for new services to be incorporated into existing buildings, therefore patients could miss out on future new developments in health care. She further added that the proposal would provide much more suitable accommodation and practices would be more efficient by sharing 'back office' functions and the PCT would be able to put more local community facilities in Harrogate. With regard to transport and parking she commented that this was the biggest single issue on any new building proposal and it was realised that they needed to provide the best access for people into the new surgery. This would include drop off points and dedicated parking spaces for disabled people. She also added that as finances were controlled by the PCT they could be targeted to meet local needs and commissioned to other health care services.

Lynda Wigley concluded by informing the Commission that the plans were well developed but not yet finalised and a formal three month consultation period was currently ongoing and the deadline for any comments/views was 12 noon on Monday 25 September 2006.

Questions and comments from Members were then invited. One Member queried whether the new centre would have extended opening hours, particularly on an evening or perhaps a late night drop in centre as members of the public wanted much more choice. Lynda Wigley advised that GPs were currently looking at this and also the possibility of a shift type system. In response to query regarding transport she commented that discussions with the local bus company and other transport service providers such as The Little Red Bus were ongoing with the aim that the centre was properly serviced by transport links. In relation to the number of staff employed at the centre and the envisaged numbers of patients using the centre on a daily basis she agreed to circulate this information to Members at a later date. Members raised concerns that the new centre would disadvantage some members of the public who would need to travel further to the new centre at Westmoreland Street. One Member commented that, as contracts were established nationally, they

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could not take into account local needs.

The following were also confirmed:-

- The development would include a pharmacy on site;
- The present surgeries were owned by the GPs and would form part of their previous plan; and
- The present St Luke's Medical Practice Sub Centre in Jennyfield would continue.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent from the Commission setting out the points raised to be incorporated in the consultation process.

(5.33 pm - 6.00 pm)

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

24/06 - **CAR PARKING POLICY WORKING GROUP:** The Scrutiny Officer explained that the Chairman of the Car Parking Policy Working Group was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health but had given him an update to pass on to the Commission. He summarised that the Car Parking Policy Working Group had had a very successful first meeting and had agreed the scope and work it was going to undertake. This would include:

- Interviews with front-line staff (parking attendants) as well as those members of staff managing the service;
- The consideration of a number of sample cases to establish how objections/representations to penalty charge notices were progressed;
- The review of the full procedure of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement from the issue of a penalty charge notice to potential involvement of bailiffs; and
- To publicise the work of the group and to consult the public.

It was also confirmed that the group recognised that there was a lot of work to be undertaken which would start with the review of appropriate policies etc but it would meet as many times as required to undertake the review appropriately. The Scrutiny Officer confirmed that Councillor R Marsh had also been approached by the local bus company who wanted to give a presentation to the group and several members of the public. The Commission noted that update.

(6.00 pm - 6.06 pm)

### **25/06 – REQUESTS FOR INCLUSION OF ITEMS IN FUTURE WORK**

**PROGRAMME:** The Scrutiny Officer referred to the Commission's future work programme and advised that no requests had been received. In relation to the Recruitment and Retention Action Plan he reported that it had been due to be considered at the last Cabinet meeting but the meeting had been cancelled and, as a result therefore, had not been included on the agenda for this meeting. The Action Plan would be submitted to the next meeting of the Commission.

(6.06 pm – 6.07 pm)

**MATTERS HOLDING THE EXECUTIVE TO ACCOUNT**

**26/06 - 2006/2007 CORPORATE BASKET OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (PIs) - QUARTER ONE REPORT:**

In the absence of the Performance Manager the Scrutiny Officer presented the report. He reported that, as a result of the restructure of the Commission remits, more PI's fell within the remit of the Organisation Improvement and Environment Commission. He also added that the PI's had also been considered at CMT and the Corporate Performance Panel and their comments were detailed at sections 11.3 and 12.0 to the report. It was noted that 25% of the PI's had not met their quarter one 2006/2007 target. One Member sought clarification on how target levels were set. The Scrutiny Officer advised that they were either nationally prescribed or locally agreed and that if Members would like to identify any particular indicators he would obtain further information. Members also requested information on the implications of not meeting the listed Human Resources indicators and if this had any effect on grants received by the Council or its CPA rating. The Scrutiny Officer agreed to circulate this information to Members of the Commission.

The report was noted.

(6.07 pm - 6.15 pm)

**27/06 - FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS:** The Chair invited the Commission to consider those issues in the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions that affected the Commission. In relation to the Waste Management Action Plan Key Decision, it was noted that there would be a report coming to the November meeting of the Commission regarding this. In relation to the Public Toilets Key Decision, the Scrutiny Officer advised that the nature of the decision had been re-considered and the decision would be taken by the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources on the 27 September 2006 and that Commission Members could then decide whether they wished to call in the decision.

(6.15 pm – 6.25 pm)