

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 15 July 2003 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Falp (Chair); Councillors Miss De-Lara-Bond, Mrs Edwards, Harris, Kinson, Kundi, Mrs McFarland and Offer.

George Dunkley Warwick District Federation of Tenants and Residents Association (Federation 2000).

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Boad (Housing Services Portfolio Holder)
and Councillor Holland (Member of the Executive)

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ms Flanagan.

234. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

235. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 20 May and 17 June 2003, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

236. FUTURE WAY OF WORKING AND WORK PLAN

A report from the Strategic Director was submitted seeking views on the work plan for the forthcoming year, and agreement on the process for undertaking that work.

At their meeting on 15 June, 2003, the Committee had identified a list of issues which were considered to be priorities for the work plan. Inevitably, there was a high degree of overlap between the remit of this, and other Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The issues highlighted were – options for achieving the “Decent Homes” standard, benefits provision for the elderly and the disabled, and facilities for teenagers.

Other issues raised were – Anti Social Behaviour Orders, Community Safety, late night disorder and leisure facilities for teenagers, which would fall within the remit of the Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Some concern was expressed at this. Members were reminded that the Committee had had the opportunity to comment on the proposed remits for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees at their last meeting, prior to the Standards Committee making its recommendations to Council.

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The work plan would take into account that following every quarter of the financial year, performance monitoring reports on the relevant services would be considered by each Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and this would provide an opportunity to hold the Portfolio Holders to account.

In order to construct a work plan that could be reasonably achieved, Members considered what method they wished to adopt. For members' information, Officers had undertaken some research on how the overview and scrutiny function had evolved in other local authorities. A diagram showing the seven stage process for scrutiny investigations adopted by the London Borough of Newham was appended to the report. Whilst it was accepted that this model was not wholly appropriate to meet the needs of this Council, it was agreed to use it as a basic framework for investigations.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the work areas shown in paragraph 2.1 of the report be agreed as the basis of the work plan for the Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (2) the following subject areas be added to the work plan in due course:- Empty Property Strategy, Travel Assisted Scheme and One Stop Shops;
- (3) Officers be asked to investigate and report back, within the context of the Council's Constitution, on the concerns expressed regarding anti-social behaviour which would fall outside this Committee's remit;
- (4) the process for scrutiny investigations adopted by the London Borough of Newham be agreed as a basic framework for investigations by the Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (5) the framework be flexible enough to ensure that the desired outcome for each investigation is achieved and the overall work plan accomplished;
- (6) the Executive be asked to recognise the potential resource implications of delivering the Overview and Scrutiny Committee function within the Council's budget.

237. EXECUTIVE MEETING – MONDAY, 23 JUNE 2003

The minutes of the Executive held on Monday, 23 June 2003, which came within the remit of the Committee were submitted for information and scrutiny.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

238. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON-CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Monday, 21 July 2003, which came within their remit. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Agenda Item Number 2(B) – Petition - Residents of Whitnash sponsored by Cllr Kirton

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 3 - Corporate Strategy

The Committee supported the objectives and priorities to be included in the new Corporate Strategy. The concerns, felt by some members, regarding elements of the process remained.

Agenda Item Number 5 - Stock Transfer – Financial Impact on Council

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and looked forward to receiving more detailed information at their next meeting.

Agenda Item Number 6 - Stock Transfer - Impact on Council

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and looked forward to receiving more detailed information at their next meeting.

Agenda Item Number 7 - Stock Transfer - Stock Condition

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report and looked forward to receiving more detailed information at their next meeting.

Agenda Item Number 10 - Warwickshire On Line Partnership – Progress Report

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item Number 11 - Cultural Quarter Proposals, Spencer Yard, Royal Leamington Spa

This item was withdrawn.

Agenda Item Number 12 - Draft Regional and Sub-Regional Housing Strategies

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 13 - Removal of the Capital Limit which Restricts Access to Council Accommodation

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item Number 18 - Community Care Management System (CCMS) - Relocation to 42 Acorn Court, Lillington, Royal Leamington Spa

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Agenda Item Number 19 - Transfer Of Land - Buckley Road/East Dene/Briar Close Garage Sites

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Agenda Item Number 21 (A) - Grants to Voluntary Organisations

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report

Agenda Item Number 21 (B) - HMO - 79 Charles Gardner Road, Leamington Spa

A majority of the Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 21 (C) - Public Art

The Committee supported the recommendation in the report.

Agenda Item Number 21 (D) - Official Recognition of the Leaseholders Action Group and Tenant/Leaseholder Representatives on Community Scrutiny Committee

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.)