

KENNET DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held in the Council Chamber, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes on Tuesday 14th February 2006 at 2.15pm

PRESENT:

Councillor C.P.G. Hoddinott – Chairman

Councillor N.D. Carter

Councillor W.B. Cavill

Councillor Mrs J.K. Combe

Councillor S.J. Miles

Councillor R.T. Parsons

Councillor J. D. Pearcy-Caldwell

Councillor Mrs N.G. Rawlings

Councillor Mrs P. M. Winchcombe

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor P.W. Richardson for Minute Number 11

PART 1

Items considered whilst the meeting was open to the public

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman drew members' attention to the note on those Minutes that there was to be a training session for Board Members on 22nd February at 2pm.

2 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures were made.

3. TASK GROUP UPDATES

Car Parking Strategy

The Board considered a Report from the Car Parking Strategy Task Group, and were informed that a draft strategy would be presented to the next meeting of the Board for approval.

RESOLVED

THAT the interim report of the Car Parking Strategy Task Group be noted.

Use of Resources Task Group

The Board considered a report by the Use of Resources Task Group and were informed that many of the areas they were considering were being considered in parallel by the Budget Reduction Sub Committee. Members expressed the opinion that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board should engage with the work of the Budget Reduction Sub Committee.

RESOLVED

THAT the report of the Use of Resources Task Group be noted.

Membership of Outside Bodies Task Group

The Board was informed of the progress of the Task Group.

RESOLVED

THAT the report of the Membership of Outside Bodies Task Group be noted.

4. CORPORATE FINANCE SCRUTINTY SUB COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Corporate Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 24th January 2006 were received and noted.

5. TOURISM

The Chairman reminded members that the Board had reserved to itself the approval of Terms of Reference for the Tourism Task Group. Members agreed that this was not an area of immediate priority for the Board and that the work of the Task Group would roll into the next municipal year.

RESOLVED

THAT the following Terms of Reference for the Tourism Task Group be approved:

1. To examine the budget allocated by Kennet District Council to Tourism, including the roles and responsibilities engaged in supporting this activity and the support received in kind from Kennet District Council Partners.
2. Consider the co-ordination of Kennet District Council tourism activities with those of Swindon and Salisbury.

3. Consider the attractions of Avebury and the Kennet and Avon Canal and how these can be best promoted.

6. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT QUARTER THREE AND NATIONAL COMPARISONS

The Policy Manager introduced her report and commented on the good performance of the Council in general.

Members noted the improved performance in respect of performance indicators relating to Benefits Claims and congratulated the staff involved in improving those indicators.

Members questioned whether a recent decision by the Regulatory Committee would have any effect on the Council's targets for the provision of affordable housing. The Policy Manager reminded the Board that statistics on affordable housing completions were included in their Quarterly Performance Monitoring Reports. The Director of Resources informed the Board that it was accepted that the whole issue of affordable housing needed reviewing in terms of the Council's Corporate Strategy and that the subject of affordable housing was likely to form a part of the State of Kennet debate.

Members raised concerns over the indicators in the Report regarding sickness monitoring, and questioned whether comparisons could be drawn between sickness levels in Local Government and those in private industry. Members agreed that they would like to monitor this indicator more closely over the next two quarters.

RESOLVED

THAT the use of Resources Task Group further investigate the Council's performance under BV12 (Sickness Monitoring).

7. ABANDONED VEHICLE PERFORMANCE

The Director of Environment and Leisure Services (designate) introduced his report to the Board and explained the factors that had contributed to the Council's poor performance in performance indicators relating to abandoned vehicles, and the steps which had been taken to improve performance in this area. The Enforcement and Inspection Officer responded to a number of technical questions from members. Members indicated that they would require a further report on the Council's performance regarding abandoned vehicles later in the year if the expected improvements were not achieved.

RESOLVED

THAT the Board endorse the proposed actions and note the improvement in recent performance.

8. COMMITTEE TIMETABLE

The Board considered a Report by the Solicitor to the Council which gave information on statutory requirements for the meeting dates of various Committees of the Council. Members considered whether it could recommend any improvement to the current Council timetable.

RESOLVED

THAT no recommendations be made.

9. URGENT ACTION BETWEEN MEETINGS

None.

10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 100(A)(4)

RESOLVED

THAT in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 11 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

PART 2

Items considered whilst the meeting was closed to the public

11. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF THE ARTS IN KENNET

Members considered a Report by the Director of Community Services and an accompanying Best Value Review, and questioned the Director of Community Services on various aspects of the Review and the conclusions drawn from it.

RESOLVED

THAT the conclusions and recommendations contained within the Best Value Review be endorsed; and

RECOMMENDED

THAT the Human Resources Committee delete the Post of Arts Development Officer from the establishment.

Note: Councillor J D Percy-Caldwell requested that his vote against the decision be recorded.

Chairman
4th April 2006