

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 8th
February 2005 at 2:15pm

PRESENT: Councillor C P G Hoddinott – Chairman

Councillor P A Brown
Councillor N D Carter
Councillor W B Cavill
Councillor D T B Hunter

Councillor J D Pearcy-Caldwell
Councillor Dr J P M Reid
Councillor Mrs P M Winchcombe

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor B G Ashley

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor A H Still (for Minute number 33)
Councillor A S Wood (for Minute number 33)

PART 1

Items considered whilst the meeting was open to the public

30. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

31. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were none.

32. CONSTITUTION REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Constitution Review Sub-Committee introduced the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 13 December 2004.

Members questioned whether decision lists for executive committees were always being sent to Members in a timely manner. The Solicitor to the Council undertook to look into the matter.

A brief debate was held about the best way for dealing with the recommendations from the Sub-committee.

It was then

**RESOLVED
THAT**

1. The Constitution Review Sub-Committee meet again to work up detailed recommendations regarding
 - a) the number of working days set in the Constitution for the Call-in Procedure, and
 - b) proposals for the recording on future minutes of meetings the numbers of Members voting for and against decisions.
2. the Solicitor to the Council prepare a report for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 29th March 2005 setting out in detail the procedure for holding a public consultation on the Council's political structure, including possible costs.

33. INTERIM REPORT OF THE TOURISM AND IT TASK GROUP

Councillor Wood introduced the Interim Report of the Tourism and IT Task Group. He reminded Members that this was an interim report and drew Members' attention to the details at the end of the report about outstanding investigations. He summarized elements of the Interim Report, highlighting staff budget figures, the impression that tourism was becoming more internet-based and the impression that it was difficult to quantify the benefits of expenditure. Councillor Wood drew Members' attention to an internet-based consultation on tourism by the Southwest Tourist Board and encouraged Members to take part in the consultation at www.towards2015.co.uk.

The Chairman opened the debate by recognizing the hard work that had gone into the Interim Report. A lengthy debate ensued during which Members questioned the terms of reference and the methodology of the Task Group.

Members felt that there were many additional aspects of tourism that could have been investigated by the Task Group. Members also debated the need for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board to more rigorously define terms of reference for any future Task Groups. Members questioned the level of Officer support for Overview and Scrutiny Task Groups.

The Director of Resources reminded the Board that it was the responsibility of the Policy Support Manager to arrange Officer support for Working Groups but that this could only be done if a request was made. The Solicitor to the Council explained to Members that the Tourism and IT Task Group had been told of this arrangement on more than one occasion.

Members praised the efforts of the Task Group and felt that their work would help to inform the Board of the necessary direction for any future Task Groups looking at tourism.

It was then

RESOLVED

THAT the recommendations contained in the Interim Report be accepted.

34. PROGRESS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEES AND TASK GROUPS

The Chairman informed the Board that the Planning Decisions Task Group was due to meet in early March and would bring a written report to the next meeting of the Board.

It was noted that the Benefits Best Value Review was the only other outstanding item of business for this municipal year. The Policy Support Manager informed Members that a report should be ready by the end of March.

The Chairman informed Members that he would be seeking written reports from all Sub-Committees and Task Groups at future meetings and that written reports should be submitted to Democratic Services two weeks before each meeting.

35. URGENT ACTION IN BETWEEN MEETINGS

None.

PART 2

Items considered whilst the meeting was closed to the public

None.

Chairman
29th March 2005