



LEISURE, TOURISM & ECONOMY

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13th March 2007

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor D Thomas (Chair) and Councillors Cookson, Hunt, MacMillan and Smith.

Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer:

I Westmore.

41. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of interest nor of any Party Whip.

43. MINUTES

It was reported that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th of January 2007 were not available for submission to the present meeting.

44. COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Members discussed the most appropriate means by which the annual report of the Committee to Council should be prepared.

It was agreed that the report be prepared by Officers with input from Members. The Committee was keen to ensure that there should be mention made of the recommendations made to the Executive and the subsequent response of the Executive. It was noted that, although reports from Overview and Scrutiny were generally well-received the subsequent outcomes were disappointing. Members expressed their view that the inter-relationship between Overview and Scrutiny and the Executive was deficient and that this was leading to a lack of added value from both functions.

Members considered that the Committee had carried out several worthwhile pieces of work during 2006/07. However, it was noted that the major topics covered had been derived from Officers and it was suggested that this was contrary to the notion of the process being Member-led.

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CHAIR

RESOLVED that

the form of its proposed contribution to an annual report to Council from the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be approved.

45. ABBEY STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT – PROPOSAL TO SHADOW THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY PANEL

It was noted at the outset that the Committee had struggled to maintain the continuing work on development of proposals for the Abbey Stadium within the scrutiny sphere. This would have followed on from the work that commenced in late 2006. Given that this case had not been supported at Council and an Advisory Panel had been established, it had subsequently been suggested by the Chair that the work of the Panel be shadowed by Overview and Scrutiny. This idea was put forward for discussion.

Members commented that matters had progressed in due course and specific mention was made of the debate that had taken place at a meeting of Council the previous evening at which the Chair of the Advisory Panel had explicitly stated that other Members were welcome to attend the forthcoming meetings of the Panel. The Committee accepted this as a compromise and asked that the Chair of the Panel be informed of their intention to attend the next meeting.

The Committee briefly discussed the merits of the present proposals. It was suggested by some Members that the recent scheme that had been turned down at a planning inquiry had been overly ambitious and that they were striving to achieve a development that was achievable and did not have a significant negative impact on the local population.

RESOLVED that

the Chair of the Abbey Stadium Advisory Panel be advised of the intention of Members of the Committee to attend the forthcoming meeting of the Panel in accordance with the invitation made at Council on 12th March 2007.

39. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the programme of future work. Officers informed the Committee of the desirability of establishing a small group of Members to review the charges for fishing at Arrow Valley Lake in response to a recommendation from the Executive Committee.

RESOLVED that

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- 1) a group comprising Councillors Cookson, Hunt and Smith be established to consider the charges for fishing at Arrow Valley Lake; and
- 2) the programme of future work be noted.

The meeting commenced at 7.05 p.m.
and closed at 7.55 p.m.

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CHAIR