

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MONDAY, 2ND APRIL, 2007**

**PRESENT:** Councillor G Driver in the Chair

Councillors B Anderson, B Cleasby,  
P Grahame, B Lancaster, T Leadley and  
R Pryke

Apologies Councillor J Bale

### **90 Late Items**

The Chair indicated that in accordance with his powers under Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, he had agreed to accept as a late item of urgent business the draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2006/07, which had not been ready at the time of agenda despatch, because this was the last scheduled meeting of the Committee in the 2006/07 municipal year, and it was important for this report to be approved for submission to Council at the earliest possible opportunity, rather than be left for the newly constituted OSC to deal with after the Annual Meeting.

### **91 Declaration of Interests**

The following declarations of interest were made:-

Councillor Grahame – Gambling Act 2005 – Council’s Statement of Gambling Policy – Leeds Large Casino Development – personal interest in her capacity as a member of a casino (Agenda Item 9, Minute No 95 refers)

Councillor Anderson - Gambling Act 2005 – Council’s Statement of Gambling Policy – Leeds Large Casino Development – personal and prejudicial interest in his capacity as Chair of the Leeds Casino Task Group (Agenda Item 9, Minute No 95 refers)

Councillor Lancaster - Gambling Act 2005 – Council’s Statement of Gambling Policy – Leeds Large Casino Development – personal interest in her capacity as a member of Gala Bingo (Agenda Item 9, Minute No 95 refers)

Councillor Leadley – (a) Request for Scrutiny – Disability Equality Scheme – personal interest in his capacity as a relative of a disabled person (Agenda Item 10, Minute No 96 refers) and (b) Draft Annual Report – Planning Performance – personal interest in his capacity as a Member of Plans Panel West and the Development Plan Panel (Agenda Item 12, Minute No 98 refers)

Councillor Cleasby – Draft Annual Report – Planning Performance – personal interest in his capacity as a Member of the Development Plan Panel (Agenda Item 12, Minute No 98 refers)

**92 Minutes - 5th March 2007**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

**93 Minutes - Executive Board, 14th March 2007**

Further to Minute No 85 of the OSC meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007, the Chair drew Members attention to Minute No 209 of the Executive Board meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007, and the fact that the Executive Board had now formally requested OSC to undertake a Scrutiny Inquiry into Leeds Comprehensive Performance Assessment issues, with particular focus on the Council's predicted CPA position in future years.

**RESOLVED** – That subject to the above, the minutes of the Executive Board meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 be received and noted.

**94 Scrutiny Inquiry - "Narrowing the Gap" - Draft Final Report**

The Committee considered a draft of its proposed final report in respect of its Inquiry into the Council's 'Narrowing the Gap' strategic priority, together with the responses of the Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing, Councillor Harris, Joint Leader of the Council and Executive Member (Central and Corporate) and the Director of Leeds Initiative to the Committee's recommendations.

Various suggested amendments were discussed. Overall Members considered that they were not in a position to finalise their report until they had discussed again with the respondents their various responses, and that another special meeting of OSC should be arranged in order to enable these discussions to take place.

**RESOLVED** – That the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development, in consultation with the Chair, arrange a further meeting of the Committee to finalise this report.

**95 Gambling Act 2005 - Council's Statement of Gambling Policy - Leeds Large Casino Development**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report regarding proposals to review and revise Part F of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy, which dealt with the way the Council would handle any applications for a large casino licence in its area, following Leeds' successful bid to licence a new large casino in its area.

Michael Romagnoli, Legal and Democratic Services, attended the meeting and informed Members that last week's decision in the House of Lords effectively meant that the Government was going to have to review and rethink its strategy in respect of casinos, which gave the Council longer to review and refine its own policies. He therefore proposed that a full and revised report be submitted to a future OSC meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That in the circumstances, consideration of this matter be deferred to a later date.

(NB Councillor Anderson declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item (see Minute No 91) and left the meeting whilst this item was being discussed)

#### **96 Request for Scrutiny - Disability Equality Scheme**

Further to Minute No 83, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007, the Committee considered a further report submitted by the Chief Officer (Executive Support), as requested by Members at the last meeting.

**RESOLVED** –

- (a) That in the light of the evidence received, the Committee endorses the Council's approach to a combined equality scheme, and does not consider an Inquiry is warranted at this time
- (b) That an update report be submitted to OSC in six months time.

#### **97 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules - Guidance Notes**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report relating to some proposed minor variations to the Scrutiny Board Guidance Notes to take account of changed circumstances

**RESOLVED** –

- (a) That the proposed removal of guidance notes 1 and 8 be approved for the reasons outlined in the report.
- (b) That the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development be authorised to make other minor changes in relation to officers job titles within the guidelines.

#### **98 Draft Annual Report to Council**

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a draft of the proposed Annual Report of Scrutiny Boards, which had to be submitted annually to Council. Each of the other Scrutiny Boards was considering their contribution to the report during the current cycle of meetings.

**RESOLVED** – That the proposed final draft, incorporating the contribution of the other Boards, be submitted for consideration at the extra OSC meeting referred to in Minute No 94.

The meeting concluded at 11.27 am.