

SCRUTINY BOARD (REGENERATION)

TUESDAY, 28TH JUNE, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor J Procter in the Chair

Councillors B Atha, D Collins, J Harper,
K Mitchell, T Murray and G Wilkinson

1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Hussain and M Iqbal.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the former Scrutiny Board (City Development) held on 17 May 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 Changes to the Council's Constitution in relation to Scrutiny

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development provided the Board with information on recent amendments to the Council's Constitution, as agreed by Council on 26 May 2011, which directly related to and/or impacted on the work of Scrutiny Boards. The more significant amendments made to the Council's Constitution in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny function were summarised in the report.

Members attention was brought to the Board's terms of reference, particularly the following three areas:

- Green space – promotion, protection, management
- Housing growth challenge both in terms of brownfield and Greenfield development, private and affordable
- Condition of private sector housing

In response to a question regarding listed buildings and conservation areas, it was reported that this would fall under the remit of the Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture)

RESOLVED – That the amendments to the Council's Constitution as outlined in the report, be noted.

5 Sources of work and areas of priority for the Scrutiny Board

To assist the Board in effectively managing its workload for the forthcoming Municipal Year, the report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development provided information and guidance on potential sources of work and areas of priority within the terms of reference. Copies of the terms of reference along with recent Executive Board minutes and a copy of the Council's Forward Plan were appended to the report.

The following Officers were in attendance for this item:

- Neil Evans – Director of Neighbourhoods and Housing
- Martin Farrington – Acting Director of Development
- David Feeney – Head of Planning and Economic Policy
- Martin Dean – Head of Leeds Initiative and International Partnerships

Members attention was brought to the draft City Priority Plan detailed in the report and the relevant section of the plan that was pertinent to the Board. It was also highlighted that the five strategic partnership boards were now aligned with the Council's revised scrutiny arrangements.

Members were reminded of discussion at the pre-meeting in relation to Housing Growth and the Core Strategy and proposals to conduct an Inquiry into this. Due to the timescales involved, a report was due to Executive Board in September, it was agreed to conduct this Inquiry through a series of Working Group meetings and report back to the Board. The Working Group would be open to all Members of the Board.

Further potential areas of work highlighted for the Board included the following:

- Affordable housing
- Population forecasting
- Condition of private sector rented housing
- Changes to the Housing Revenue Account
- Greenspace quality

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That Terms of Reference for the proposed Inquiry into Housing Growth and the Core Strategy be drafted and submitted to the Working Group for approval.

6 Work Schedule

A report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development gave opportunity for consideration of the Board's work schedule for the forthcoming Municipal Year. A draft work schedule was appended to the report.

RESOLVED – That the Board’s work schedule be amended to reflect the agreed areas of work.

7 Co-opted Members

The report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development sought the Board’s formal consideration for the appoint of co-opted members. Reference was made to the provision in the Council’s Constitution for the appointment of co-opted members.

Members were informed of the arrangements for appointing co-opted Members and it was suggested that Mr George Hall, previously of Barwick in Elmet & Scholes Parish Council be co-opted for the term of the proposed Inquiry into Housing Growth and the Core Strategy due to his previous involvement with the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment Partnership.

RESOLVED – That Mr George Hall be appointed as a co-opted member to the Board for the proposed Inquiry into Housing Growth and the Core Strategy.

8 Date and Time of Meetings for 2011/12 Municipal Year

Wednesday, 17th August 2011
Tuesday, 27th September 2011
Monday, 31st October 2011
Tuesday 29th November 2011
Monday, 19th December 2011
Tuesday, 17th January 2012
Tuesday, 28th February 2012
Tuesday, 27th March 2012
Tuesday, 24th April 2012

All meetings to commence at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Hall. Pre-meeting for all Board Members at 9.30 a.m.

Members would be contacted regarding dates and times of working group meetings.

The meeting concluded at 10:25 a.m.