

**AD-HOC SCRUTINY GROUP (SERVICE REVIEWS)  
16TH MARCH 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor Hampson (Chair),  
Councillors Burr, Seaton, Vincent and Walker.

The Director of Partnerships and Customer Services attended as Lead Director.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Hampson be elected as chair of the Group.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

Disclosures of Personal Interest were made as follows:

- (i) by Councillor Burr – personal interest, as a member of the Management Committee of Shepshed Volunteer Centre, in item 5 on the agenda – Service Review – Community Grants Scheme;
- (ii) by Councillor Vincent – personal interest, as a Board member of John Storer House, Voluntary Action Charnwood and Charnwood Arts, in item 5 on the agenda – Service Review – Community Grants Scheme; and
- (iii) by Councillor Walker – personal interest, as a Council representative on Voluntary Action Charnwood, as a trustee of Leicester Area Quakers and as a previous President of Loughborough Twinning Association, in item 5 on the agenda – Service Review – Community Grants Scheme.

3. DECLARATIONS – THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations of the existence of the Party Whip were made.

4. SERVICE REVIEW – COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

A report of the Director of Governance and Procurement was submitted, which set out the results of the Service Review of the Community Grants scheme and proposed new arrangements for the assessment of grant applications and the allocation of grant funding (item 5 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Director of Governance and Procurement and the Standards and Monitoring Support Officer attended to assist with consideration of this matter.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations of the Director of Governance and Procurement be approved, subject to the following additions:

- (i) that consideration be given to funding Community Centres in Loughborough through the Loughborough Special Rate;

- (ii) that the Community Development Grants Scheme needs to be clearly timetabled, with details of deadlines, when a decision would be taken and the money released etc; and
- (iii) that details of the Community Development Projects and Community Engagement Funding schemes be publicised effectively.

#### Reason

To support the reasons for the review and to ensure the following issues were taken into account:

- (i) community centres were part of the basic infrastructure and it was an anomaly that funding for the Loughborough Community Centres was included within the Charnwood Community Grants Scheme;
- (ii) to ensure that the scheme was equitable and that all applications were considered in the round and not on a first come first served basis; and
- (iii) to ensure that the organisations were aware of the funding that was available and did not miss any deadlines.

#### 5. MUSEUMS SERVICE REVIEW

A report of the Director of Leisure and Environment was submitted, which reported on the scope, objectives and proposed outcome of the Museums Service Review and the target level of savings attributed in the service review (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Director of Leisure and Environment and the Head of Culture, Art and Heritage attended to assist with consideration of this matter.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations of the Director of Leisure and Environment be approved, subject to the following additions:

- (i) that officers explore revising the opening hours to allow for the Museum to open on Bank Holidays when there was a major event taking place in the park or the Town Centre; and
- (ii) that it be noted that the reductions proposed in the Museums Service Review were sensible, however, any further reductions would be potentially damaging to the service.

#### Reason

To support the reasons for the review and to ensure the following issues were taken into account:

- (i) there would be a significant number of people in the town on such days, who potentially would visit the museum, which could be advertised as being open as an additional attraction; and
- (ii) the Museums service was a small service area and further erosion of resources would disproportionately affect the service levels.

6. ENGINEERING SERVICE REVIEW

A report of the Director of Leisure and Environment was submitted, which reported on the scope, objectives and proposed outcome of the Engineering Service Review and the target level of savings attributed in the service review (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Director of Leisure and Environment and the Head of Environmental Services attended to assist with consideration of this matter.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations of the Director of Leisure and Environment be approved.

Reason

To support the reasons for the review.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next batch of Service Reviews were due to be considered by Cabinet on 8th July 2010. The next meeting of the Ad-Hoc Scrutiny Group (Service Reviews) was scheduled for 3.30pm on Tuesday 6th July 2010.

NOTE:

These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Group (scheduled for 6th July 2010).