

**A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**WAS HELD ON 4 JULY 2011**

Councillors Bradley, Dickson, Forder (Chairman) (P), Foster-Reed (P), Geddes (P), Hylands (P), Jacobs (P), Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle, and Miss West (P).

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor Smith had been nominated to replace Councillor Bradley for this meeting.

**6. WELCOME TO DR PENNELLS**

The Chairman welcomed Dr Pennells to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. The Chairman advised the Committee that he had asked Dr Pennells to attend in order to give expert advice regarding one area of potential scrutiny, Medical Accident and Emergency Response Services in Gosport.

**7. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Bradley, Dickson and Mrs Searle.

**8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**9. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AND 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> March and 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

**10. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME**

a) REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

Consideration was given to a briefing note circulated by the Borough Solicitor regarding the review of Polling Places (attached to these minutes as appendix 1).

The Borough Solicitor advised the Committee that the Council was required by statute to divide its areas in polling districts and polling places for the purpose of parliamentary elections and keep them under review. The last review was undertaken in 2007, therefore there was a need for this area to be re-examined.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
4 July 2011

The Committee was advised that there were limited options available for Polling Stations due to the lack of suitable available buildings.

The Council would publish notice of the review in the Town Hall and in the local newspaper.

The Borough Solicitor informed the Committee that during the review consultation would take place with special interest groups, members of the public, councillors and disability groups.

The comments from special interest groups would be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration. The Borough Solicitor suggested that an extraordinary meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2011 be arranged to consider the comments.

The Borough Solicitor informed the Committee that as the (Acting) Returning Officer, they had to present the final proposals to Full Council for approval in November 2011. The Electoral Registration Officer would implement any changes when publishing the Register of Electors on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake this area of scrutiny and arrange an extraordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2011 to consider the review of polling places. The committee agreed that this scrutiny would be done through the full committee between September and November 2011 (see appendix 2).

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to undertake the review of Polling Places, and arrange an extraordinary meeting of the Committee in September 2011 to consider this scrutiny.

b) WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

c) OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY

The Committee considered a table circulated by the Chairman, which outlined the proposed areas of scrutiny for 2011/12 which were suggested at the last Committee meeting in this 2010/11 municipal year (attached to these minutes as appendix 2).

*Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services*

The Chairman invited Dr Pennells to share with the Committee his thoughts on the medical accident and emergency scrutiny proposal.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
4 July 2011

Dr Pennells suggested that the scrutiny of Gosport's medical emergency and accident services should be sub divided into two separate areas:

1. A&E provision - focused on QA hospital, minor injuries clinic at the War Memorial Hospital (WMH) and the Out of Hours GP service.
2. Ambulances on the Peninsula – which included access issues and where ambulances were based day to day.

Dr Pennells had conducted email correspondence with Mr Neil Cook, Head of Operations for South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) NHS Trust, regarding the second area of scrutiny (attached to these minutes as appendix 3). Mr Cook was unable to provide any data regarding Gosport, but was happy to attend a committee meeting to explain the service in the area. He did note, however, that SCAS had outperformed other ambulance trusts, nationally, in both clinical and performance target areas.

Dr Pennells also noted that while Gosport was well provided for regarding minor injuries at the WMH, the Hospital was underused. He noted that this could be due to lack of publicity. Dr Pennells' noted that the service provided there could be lost if it was not used.

Councillors agreed that there was a lack of publicity regarding the services provided at WMH and confusion over what 'minor injuries' actually meant.

A Councillor queried whether ambulances took all patients to QA and not to the WMH, which could explain the lack of patients at the WMH.

A Councillor questioned whether access to the peninsula was a problem. Dr Pennells' replied that it did pose a problem, but the ambulances were capable of travelling through busy traffic.

The Committee was informed by a Councillor that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Hampshire County Council had recently undertaken a piece of scrutiny concerning health in the County. It was suggested that they may be able to provide useful information for the Borough Council's scrutiny.

It was agreed that it would be useful to gain a better understanding of Hampshire PCT's and SCAS's policy for the peninsula.

The Committee agreed that a Working Group would be set up immediately for the scrutiny of Gosport medical emergency and accident services. Councillors Forder, Scard and Jessop volunteered to sit on the Working Group. The Committee agreed that the Working Group would aim to end the scrutiny in March 2012 (see appendix 2). The Democratic Services Officer would arrange the first Working Group meeting in July 2011.

*Budget-making Amendment Procedures and Part 4 Constitutional Review*

The Committee discussed the scope of this piece of scrutiny. The Committee considered how opposition groups could propose amendments to the budget before the full council meeting.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
4 July 2011

The Working Group would arrange a meeting in which all Councillors could attend and give their comments regarding the budget making process.

The Committee agreed that a Working Group would be set up in September 2011 for the scrutiny of budget-making amendment procedures and part 4 constitutional review. Councillors Kimber, Forder and Mrs Searle (tbc) volunteered to sit on the Working Group. The Committee agreed that the Working Group would aim to end the scrutiny in January 2012 (see appendix 2). The Democratic Services Officer would arrange a date for the first Working Group meeting in early September 2011. The Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the Borough Solicitor and the Working Group, to arrange a date for the meeting of all Councillors to discuss this piece of scrutiny for late September 2011.

*Funding of Voluntary Organisations*

The Committee discussed the scope of this piece of scrutiny. The Committee agreed that the purpose of the scrutiny was not to reduce the amount of funding given to voluntary organisations, but to assess whether the funding should be re-apportioned between them. The value of voluntary organisations in the Borough was acknowledged by the committee.

The Committee agreed that a Working Group would be set up immediately for the scrutiny of funding of voluntary organisations. Councillor Hylands, Councillor Jessop and Councillor Jacobs volunteered to sit on the Working Group. The Committee agreed that the Working Group would aim to end the scrutiny in December 2011 (see appendix 2).

RESOLVED: That the Committee undertake all the proposed areas of scrutiny for this municipal year as indentified above.

**11. REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED**

a) DIAL A RIDE

Councillor Hylands informed the Committee that at the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011 Dial a Ride Working Group meeting; the Financial Services Manager had presented a report from Dial a Ride which gave encouraging figures for the last quarter. However, it was discovered at a subsequent monitoring meeting with Hampshire County Council (HCC) on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011, that the figures provided by Dial a Ride were incorrect and in fact they had not made any improvements.

Members of the Working Group had expressed their disappointment and frustration at the lack of progress from Dial a Ride and especially being fed false information.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
4 July 2011

The Committee discussed the terms and conditions of the contract for Dial a Ride, focusing particularly on the conditions to terminate the contract. The Borough Solicitor confirmed that the Council would need to give six months notice to terminate the contract and this would need to be approved at Community Board by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The Committee agreed that the Working Group would continue to meet and receive monitoring reports. The Working Group would focus on the consequences of terminating the contract for Dial a Ride.

The Working Group suggested that this may be a potential area of scrutiny for HCC.

The Dial a Ride Working Group had proposed that an extraordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be organised whereby Councillors could interview the responsible officers at Dial a Ride and HCC. It was suggested that this could be co-ordinated with the extraordinary meeting to be arranged for the Polling Places scrutiny.

**12. AOB**

There was no further business to discuss.

The meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN