

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY 29 MAY 2008 FROM 7.50PM TO 8.15PM**

Present: Pauline Helliar-Symons (Chairman), Barrie Patman (Vice Chairman), Prue Bray, David Lee, Rob Stanton and Simon Weeks

Also present:- Councillor Dianne King

PART I

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 May 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions received.

9. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions received.

10. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Committee considered a recommendation from the Executive to approve the Local Area Agreement for submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government by 31 May 2008.

During discussion of the item the Chairman queried why Honey Hill, in the Wokingham Without Ward, was shown as a pocket of deprivation as Councillor Helliar-Symons believed that this was not the case. The Chairman asked Officers to investigate why the area was shown as a pocket of deprivation and that reference to Honey Hill should be deleted if this was not found to be the case.

The Chairman was also concerned that Local Authorities appeared to be held to account by the work of its partners who were unelected bodies. The Executive Member for Community Development confirmed that each target identified the name of the relevant organisation and there would be a strict method of performance management in place. Councillor Patman, the Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police Authority, assured the Chairman that in relation to the targets the Police were involved in there was a large amount of work being undertaken and they were also looking at and trying to rationalise their approach across the whole of the Thames Valley.

Members queried the size of the reward grant and were informed that the Government had yet to define the reward element but it was likely to relate to the basket of targets.

In order to clarify whether the right amount of targets had been chosen and whether they measured the right things Members were informed that the indicators had been agreed by the whole of the Local Strategic Partnership, not just the Council or the Government. Considerable thought and debate, over a number of months, had been carried out with Government Officers and agreement had been reached after expert input on what would be realistic and achievable.

The Chairman also raised concerns that it appeared that performance monitoring would only be undertaken by the Local Strategic Partnership Board and not by any other committee of the Council. Members were informed that it was expected that Scrutiny would monitor the Local Area Agreement and that this role would also be undertaken through performance monitoring routes to the Executive.

RESOLVED: That the Local Area Agreement, as circulated separately, be agreed for submission to the Department of Communities and Local and Government by 31 May 2008.

These are the Minutes of a meeting of the Special Council Executive Committee

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