

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND HEALTH

MINUTES of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health held at Pelham House, Lewes on Thursday 21 February 2002.

36. PRESENT - Councillor Webb (Chairman)
Councillors Chartier, Garvican, Mrs Leigh, Lock,
McPherson (Vice-Chairman) and Whetstone.
- Chief Officer - David Archibald, Director of
Social Services
- Lead Officer - Bernadine Bacon, Scrutiny Lead
Officer
- Legal Adviser - Andrew Ogden, Deputy Director
of Legal and Community
Services

ALSO PRESENT - Councillor Glazier, Lead Cabinet Member for Social
Services and Health, Councillor Neighbour, Lead
Opposition Spokesperson for Social Services and Health.

37. MINUTES

37.1 RESOLVED – to approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 7 December 2001 as a correct record.

38. REPORTS

38.1 Reports on the matters dealt with in the minutes below are contained in the minute book.

39. CALL-IN

39.1 The Committee had before them the minutes of the decisions made on 31 January 2002 by the Lead Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health. The Committee also considered the three reasons submitted by Councillors Webb, Chartier and McPherson for requesting a Call-In of the decisions made by the Lead Member in relation to Community Partnership Finance applications.

39.2 The Legal Adviser to the Committee, the Deputy Director of Legal and Community Services, advised the Committee of the procedures under the Council's Constitution, if they decided to ask the Lead Member to reconsider his decisions. The Committee noted the options available to them. The Committee also considered a report by the Director of Social Services, which provided information in response to the reasons given for calling-in the Lead Member's decisions concerning Community Partnership Finance applications.

39.3 In response to questions, the Director of Social Services informed the Committee that the budget process for 2002/2003 whilst transparent and open in terms of overall budget savings needed within departments did not allow consultation on individual areas prior to the 18 December 2001 Cabinet meeting. The timescales for the reconciling policy and resources exercise and the process for determining the allocation of Community Partnership Finance funds had been short and there had not been enough opportunity to consult fully with voluntary organisations. The Committee noted that work had now been undertaken within the Social Services Department to develop the criteria for applying for funds and to update the overall process in respect of Community Partnership Finance applications.

39.4 The Lead Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health, Councillor K Glazier, was in attendance and was invited to speak by the Chairman. The Lead Member also reiterated that work was in progress to define clearly the criteria for applying for Community Partnership Finance.

39.5 The Scrutiny Committee welcomed the Lead Member's comments and requested that the updated document outlining the process for managing and administering the Community Partnership Finance applications should be considered by the Scrutiny Committee for Social Services and Health before being submitted for approval to the Lead Member.

39.6 RESOLVED – (1) to not ask the Lead Cabinet Member for Social Services and Health to reconsider his decisions in relation to Community Partnership Finance applications; but

(2) to request the Director of Social Services to submit a report outlining the updated process for Community Partnership Finance applications to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to be held on 27 March 2002; and

(3) that the implications of any loss of matched funding are considered as part of the process.