



**CHELTENHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee**  
**9th June 2005**

**Reference from Economy and Business Improvement Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Extract of draft minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

**11. PARKLANDS COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Deputy Exchequer introduced the joint report of himself and the Deputy Neighbourhood and Community which recommended the establishment of a joint scrutiny working party with the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee to carry out a strategic review of Parklands. He indicated that the Cabinet were keen to set some timescales for the review but he acknowledged the independence of overview and scrutiny and was happy to discuss the proposed completion dates.

The committee was advised that Cllr. Forbes had been nominated by the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Group to sit on the joint working party, however this was subject to her confirmation as she had not been present at the meeting.

Members expressed some concern about the recommendations in the report. They felt that the target date for bringing a report back to Cabinet in September was unreasonable and the end of the year was a more achievable target. They also considered that it was for the working party to set their own terms of reference. The view was also expressed that as the Economy and Business Improvement Committee they should review Parklands within their own remit and focus on the issues regarding the land, any restrictions, the process for renewing the lease and how that can be speedily resolved in the interests of the community. They could provide a more objective view on the status of the property before bringing in the community regeneration issues. It was suggested these could be reviewed in parallel by a working group of the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee and any recommendations from this committee on the property side would be forwarded to the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment before making any recommendations to Cabinet.

Cllrs. Britter and Flynn supported the idea of a joint review and felt that as members they should be encouraging joined-up working on strategic issues. A faster

conclusion could be reached than by having two separate reviews. Cllr. Gearing was concerned that even with two separate working groups, the one looking at property issues may still need to look at some of the community issues.

The Deputy Exchequer indicated his disappointment if scrutiny did not take this opportunity to carry out a more strategic review of Parklands and if they opted for the two parallel reviews it would fall to the Cabinet to do this.

After further discussion, members decided that the review of Parklands was accommodated in the terms of reference of their existing property review working group and therefore all that was required was to give it a suitable priority to ensure that the end of year deadline could be met.

- RESOLVED:**
- i) that the committee recommend to the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee that they set up their own working group to review the community issues associated with Parklands as set out in part one of the scope of the Draft Terms of Reference in Appendix 1.**
  
  - ii) that the current property review working group utilise their existing terms of reference to cover the Parklands issue giving it sufficient emphasis to ensure the working group can report back its recommendations on Parklands to Cabinet by the end of the year.**
  
  - iii) that Cllr. Flynn be invited to join the property review working group.**