

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THE EARL BALDWIN SUITE, DUKE HOUSE, CLENSMORE STREET,
KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 8TH MARCH 2012 (6 PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), T Ingham (Vice-Chairman), J Baker, G W Ballinger, N Gale, J Greener, I Hardiman, P B Harrison, J A Hart, V Higgs, J Holden, D J McCann, A M Sewell, D R Sheppard and S J Williams.

Observers

Councillors J-P Campion and F M Oborski.

OS.113 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A J Buckley and J Phillips.

OS.114 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor P B Harrison was appointed as a substitute for Councillor A J Buckley.

OS.115 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.116 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2012, 8th February 2012 and 9th February 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.117 My Street, My Community

The Committee considered a report from Councillors H E Dyke, M J Hart and M Price on the development and delivery of 'My Street, My Community' a behavioural change project within the Council's Wyre Forest Forward Programme.

Members were led through the report by the Wyre Forest Forward Programme Manager and advised the initiative would empower people to take a pride in their local communities and create a sense of ownership for their local area. The support and leadership provided by the Council would fit together with the localism agenda. In response to a Members question, it was confirmed that there would not be a duplication of the work carried out by the Vestia Group within the Areas of Highest Needs.

The Chairman asked Members of the Committee to email the Democratic Services Officer if they would like to sit on the Group.

Agreed:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish a joint Member and Officer Working Group to support the development of the 'My Street, My Community' initiative in line with the following targets:

- **Pilot scheme drafted by September 2012.**
- **3 month pilot implemented from October 2012.**
- **Review of pilot and agree future of programme by February 2013.**

OS.118 Wyre Forest District Local Development Framework (LDF): Draft Policy Wording for Potential sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople

Members considered a report from the Senior Forward Planning Officer which provided draft policy wording for the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (DPD), against which future planning applications for gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites would be assessed. The Planning Policy Manager led Members through the report.

The specific points raised by the Local Development Framework Review Panel at its meeting held on 20th February 2012 were outlined and the Chairman of the Review Panel, Councillor F M Oborski, presented the recommendations to the Committee.

Members were advised following endorsement of the draft policy wording Officers would undertake an informal consultation with key stakeholders. It was noted there would not be a full public consultation, but would involve workshops with interested groups, key stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, Natural England, Highways and utility companies. This would present the policy wording that would be included in the Publication Site Allocations and Policies DPD which were due to be reported back to the Committee in June 2012.

The Committee requested that the Planning Policy Manager and Solicitor identify, if possible, stronger wording in relation to the cumulative impact of Gypsy and Traveller Sites on the Sandy Lane area of Stourport-on-Severn.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

- **The draft policy wording set out at Appendix 1 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 8th March 2012, be approved for informal consultation with key stakeholders ahead of its inclusion within the Pre-Submission Publication version of the Site Allocations and Policies DPD.**

OS.119 Wyre Forest District Council's Carbon Management Plan

The Committee considered a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer on the proposed Wyre Forest District Council Carbon Management Plan.

Members were led through the report by the Strategic Housing Services Manager and advised that the Plan set out a series of projects for carbon reduction from the Council's buildings, including the move to the new HQ, the fleet, car mileage and service areas. The target was to see a reduction of 30% in the Council's carbon emissions over the 5-year Plan period (2012/13 - 2016/17). It was confirmed that the Carbon Management Trust had signed the plan off on Monday 5th March 2012.

The Committee were advised of the range of options the Fleet Manager was currently investigating, such as using bio fuel. A Member requested that targets be included relating to the procurement process for fleet vehicles.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

- 1. The Carbon Management Plan, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th March 2012 be amended to include targets relating to the procurement process for fleet vehicles and subject thereto, that it be approved.**
- 2. Members to receive regular updates on progress made.**

Councillor J Holden left the meeting at this point, (7.10pm).

OS.120 Worcestershire Homelessness Strategy

The Committee considered a report from the Principal Strategic Housing Officer on the draft Worcestershire Homelessness Strategy 2012-16 which replaced the previous strategy for the period 2007 and 2011.

The draft 2012-16 strategy had been written following a 12 month desktop data review and extensive consultation with service users and service providers and was due to go out for a final 12 week consultation.

Members expressed concern over various issues relating to the housing provision within the District, including the number of social housing properties which were being offered for shared ownership. The Chairman advised that a scrutiny exercise on housing had been suggested for the next municipal year.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

- 1. The draft homelessness strategy be consulted upon for a period of 12 weeks from 16th March 2012.**
- 2. Delegated authority be given to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Place Shaping to agree the final Worcestershire Homelessness Strategy following the 12 week consultation to take account of any comments received.**

OS.121 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list following consideration of the recommendations from 31st January 2012 and 21st February 2012 be noted.

OS.122 Work Programme

Agreed:

- 1. The Democratic Services Officer to add New HQ Update to the work programme for April 2012.**
- 2. The Leader of the Council to circulate to all Members an update on the progress of the New HQ.**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.38pm.