

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

THURSDAY, 12TH APRIL 2012 (6 PM)

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**Present:**

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), T Ingham (Vice-Chairman), J Baker, G W Ballinger, N Gale, B T Glass, J Greener, J A Hart, J Holden, D J McCann, M A Salter, A M Sewell, J A Shaw and S J Williams.

**Observers**

Councillors: J-P Campion and F M Oborski.

**OS.123 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: A J Buckley, I Hardiman, V Higgs and D R Sheppard.

**OS.124 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor B T Glass was appointed as a substitute for Councillor D R Sheppard. Councillor M A Salter was appointed as a substitute for Councillor I Hardiman. Councillor J A Shaw was appointed as a substitute for Councillor V Higgs.

**OS.125 Declaration of Interests**

Councillor J Greener declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 – Worcestershire Extra Care Housing Strategy, as she is a Board Member of The Community Housing Group.  
Councillor N Gale declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 – Worcestershire Extra Care Housing Strategy, as she is a Board Member of The Community Housing Group.  
Councillor H Dyke declared a personal interest in agenda item 5 – Worcestershire Extra Care Housing Strategy, as her husband works for The Community Housing Group.

**OS.126 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

Councillor J-P Campion entered the meeting at this point.

**OS.127 Worcestershire Extra Care Housing Strategy**

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Housing Services Manager

on the proposed Worcestershire Extra Care Housing Strategy.

The Strategy reviewed the existing data from the previous study carried out into the Housing and Support needs of older people which identified a growing need for various types of accommodation, including extra care as well as improved information services and supporting people to remain in their own home. It also detailed the new population predictions to develop an estimate of need until 2026.

Members felt that new development of extra care accommodation should be located within or close to existing communities, not created as villages in isolated locations.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet**

- **The Worcestershire Extra Care Housing Strategy, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 be approved.**

**Recommend to the Local Development Review Panel:**

- **In relation to the subsequent development of planning policy following approval of the Worcestershire Extra Care Housing Strategy as attached at Appendix 1 to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012, the Committee wished the Council to resist new major developments of extra care accommodation outside of existing communities.**

**OS.128 New Council Headquarters Update**

The Committee received an update from the Leader of the Council on behalf of the Director of Community Assets and Localism. Members were led through the March interim summary report from Rider Levett Bucknall, and advised that correspondence had been sent out from the Media and Marketing Team to all Councillors regarding the time capsule. The Leader advised that verbal notification had been received from the Council's Partners regarding a six week delay in completion; however no formal notice had been received. The contract had been awarded on a fixed price, fixed time basis and any time delay penalty would be dealt with by the Legal Teams at the end of the contract.

**Agreed: The report be noted.**

**OS.129 North Worcestershire Strategy**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, North Worcestershire which provided an update on the North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration Shared Services hosted by Wyre Forest District Council.

Members were led through the report by the Economic Development Manager, North Worcestershire and advised that to achieve an effective service the established three teams from across North Worcestershire had been bought together to build resilience, share knowledge and resources across the geography. A Member requested the names of the post holders to be included in the structure

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

set out in appendix 1 of the report, the Economic Development Manager agreed to circulate the information to the Committee.

#### **Agreed:**

- **The North Worcestershire Economic Development & Regeneration team structure be updated to include the names of the post holders and circulated to Members by the Economic Development Manager.**

#### **Recommend to Cabinet.**

- **The North Worcestershire Economic Development & Regeneration Strategy for North Worcestershire as set out at Appendix 3 to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 be endorsed.**
- **The identified priorities for Wyre Forest District set out in Appendix 3 to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and namely the focus on the delivery of the ReWyre Initiative and associated State of the Area Debate, be agreed.**

#### **OS.130 Recommendation Tracking**

The Chairman advised that the item would be deferred to the first meeting of the new municipal calendar. Tracking information was still being collated and as the March 2012 meeting of the Cabinet had been cancelled, there was no feedback to report.

#### **OS.131 Work Programme**

**Agreed: The work programme for the past 12 months be noted.**

The Chairman thanked the Committee Members for the participation over the past year and wished everybody well for the future.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.43pm.