

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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

THURSDAY, 5TH JULY 2012 (6.00PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), T Ingham (Vice-Chairman), R Bishop, C Brewer, L Davies, J Greener, P B Harrison, J Hart, P Hayward, V Higgs, H J Martin, D C H McCann, B McFarland, M Rayner, C Rogers, A Sewell, D R Sheppard, S J Williams and G C Yarranton.

Observers

Councillors: M J Hart and F M Oborski.

OS.13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor N Gale.

OS.14 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

OS.15 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.16 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meetings held on 31st May and 14th June 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.17 How Are We Doing? Priorities Performance Update

The Committee considered a report from the Business Improvement Officer on the performance of the Council, including its Priorities for Quarter 4 from 1st January to 31st March 2012.

Members were advised the current format of reporting performance would cease and a new style of performance management reporting would be introduced with effect from 1st April 2012. The new format would continue to be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

The Business Improvement Officer led Members through the report and appendices, Members raised specific queries in relation to the monitoring of the payroll contract (RES BP11 ACC19), Friends of Parks (CAP BP11 CUL 32),

development of Local Children's Partnership (CAP BP11 CUL 38), the ReWyre initiative (PRS BP11 PR42d), processing of planning applications (PRS PI 02A), Love Your Place campaign (PRS BP11 EM20) and the WyredIn on-line residents magazine (CAP BP11 CSP01b). The Business Improvement Officer was asked to seek clarification on the specific issues raised and notify the Members of the Committee accordingly.

Agreed:

- 1. The progress to date for the Priorities and Performance Indicators be noted.**
- 2. The Business Improvement Officer to seek clarification on the specific issues raised and notify the Members of the Committee accordingly.**

OS.18 Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Action Plan

The Committee considered a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer which provided a progress update on the Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2011/12, and sought endorsement of the Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2012/13.

Members were led through the report and advised that the Health and Sustainability Team within the Housing Services led the co-ordination and delivery of work to tackle fuel poverty and affordable warmth issues in Wyre Forest. To deliver an annual Affordable Warmth Action Plan, the Team worked with partners on the Wyre Forest Affordable Warmth Steering Group, including Act on Energy, Public Health, the Fire Service and Disability Action Wyre Forest.

The Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy aimed to reduce carbon emissions within the District, including the domestic sector. Delivery of the Affordable Warmth Action Plan would contribute towards this and demonstrate the Council's leadership in this area.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The Affordable Warmth Action Plan 2012/13, as attached at Appendix 2 to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th July 2012, be approved.

OS.19 Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan

The Committee considered a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer which provided a progress update on the Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2011/12 and sought endorsement of the Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2012/13.

Members were led through the report and advised that the Health and Sustainability Team within Housing Services had led the co-ordination and delivery of work to tackle climate change issues within Wyre Forest. The Wyre Forest Climate Change Strategy 2008-2011 aimed to raise awareness about climate change, reduce climate change gas emissions in the District and enabled adaption to the impacts of climate change. It was written in alignment with the Worcestershire Partnership's

Climate Change Strategy, which was currently being reviewed. The Wyre Forest 2012/13 action plan has been written to ensure that this important area of work continued whilst the review was underway.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The Climate Change Action Plan 2012/13, as attached at Appendix 2 to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 5th July 2012, be approved.

OS.20 Treasury Management Review Panel

The Committee considered the membership of the Treasury Management Review Panel for the current municipal year. The Chairman asked Members to put their names forward either directly to the Democratic Services Officer or via their respective Group Leaders.

Agreed: Nominations for membership of the Treasury Management Review Panel to be sent to the Democratic Services Officer or Group Leaders.

Councillor P Hayward left the meeting at this point, (6.55pm).

OS.21 Scrutiny Proposal Forms

The Committee considered two scrutiny proposal forms submitted by Councillors F M Oborski and G C Yarranton relating to the Wyre Forest Matters Partnership Area of Highest Need project and the bund at Puxton Marshes..

Agreed:

- 1. The items be accepted onto the work programme and progressed by way of review panels.**
- 2. The Democratic Services Officer to contact Group Leaders for nominations from Members to take part in the reviews.**

OS.22 Worcestershire County Council Infrastructure Consultation

A report was presented to the Committee by the Planning Policy Manager on the Worcestershire County Council Infrastructure Consultation.

The Chairman advised Members that this was the only available meeting before the consultation deadline for the item to be considered, and to enable a report to be prepared by Officers to accompany the document the papers were circulated a few days before the meeting. The Chairman apologised to the Committee for receiving the papers at short notice which gave little opportunity for full consideration.

The Committee decided not to take the item at the meeting and wished to register with Worcestershire County Council their strong disapproval at the shortness of the consultation period in respect of such an important matter. In order for Members to give the document full and detailed consideration it was agreed a formal request be submitted to Worcestershire County Council for additional time to consider the document and lodge consultation responses.

Agreed:

- 1. The item be deferred to a Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held in August 2012.**
- 2. The Democratic Services Officer send a letter on behalf of the Chairman of the Committee to the Planning, Economy and Performance Section, Worcestershire County Council, formally requesting additional time to consider the document and lodge consultation responses.**

OS.23 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list following consideration of the recommendations from 19th June 2012 be noted.

OS.24 Work Programme

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.20pm.