

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER**

**THURSDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 2013 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: T Ingham (Vice-Chairman), C Brewer, N Gale, J Greener, V Higgs, T L Onslow, J Phillips, M Price, M Rayner, C Rogers and J A Shaw.

**Observers**

Councillors: G W Ballinger and M Hart.

**OS.22 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), D C H McCann and A M Sewell.

**OS.23 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor M Price was appointed as a substitute for Councillor H E Dyke.  
Councillor J A Shaw was appointed as a substitute for Councillor A M Sewell.

**OS.24 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**OS.25 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**OS.26 Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Early Engagement**

The Committee considered a report from the Senior Forward Planning Officer on the preparation plans for an Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

Members were led through the report and advised the request for the Council to produce and adopt an Affordable Housing SPD was a recommendation from the Housing Review Panel which was established in July 2012 to consider a number of housing relating issues, including the provision of affordable housing.

Members welcomed the development of the document and the issues it proposed to address, such as size and design standards for new affordable housing units.

The Chairman of the Housing Review Panel commended Officers for all the hard work undertaken in implementing the recommendations.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:**

**The Early Engagement Leaflet draft text, as set out at Appendix 1 to the Overview and Scrutiny report, forms the basis for a consultation between Thursday 3rd and Friday 1st November 2013.**

**OS.27 West Midlands Safari and Leisure Park (WMSLP) – Planning Brief and Masterplan**

The Committee received a report from the Principal Planning Policy Officer which provided an update on the masterplanning work being undertaken by West Midlands Safari and Leisure Park (WMSLP).

The Planning Policy Manager led Members through the report and advised the production of a Planning Brief and Masterplan was a requirement of the Council's adopted Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan, and would provide a guidance framework for the consideration of future planning applications at the park.

The Committee considered the planning brief and welcomed the potential investment within the District and the benefits to the local economy. In response to the concerns raised regarding the impact on the local highways network, the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place confirmed that Officers would continue to work with Worcestershire County Council Highways Department on traffic impact assessments.

**Agreed: To endorse the Planning Brief and Masterplan, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, as a suitable framework to meet the requirements of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.**

**OS.28 Recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel: Consideration of Annual Report on Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2012/13**

The Chairman of the Treasury Management Review Panel, Councillor T Ingham introduced a report from the Chief Financial Officer which provided a review of the treasury management activities for 2012/13 and sought approval for the actual 2012/13 prudential and treasury indicators.

The Chief Financial Officer led Members through the report and in response to a Members question regarding the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS), confirmed the Council was not progressing the scheme at present time due to the significant market changes.

**Agreed: To propose to Cabinet that it recommends to Council:**

- **The actual 2012/13 prudential and treasury indicators be approved.**
- **The annual treasury management report for 2012/13 be noted.**

**OS.29 How Are We Doing? Performance Update**

The Committee considered a report from the Business Improvement Officer which updated Members on the performance of the Council for Quarter 1 from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

The Director of Economic Prosperity and Place introduced the report and advised Members that the presentation of the information had been changed to report on all 11 of the Council's purpose statements.

Members felt the report was far too lengthy and commented on the missing data. It was agreed that future reports should be reported by exception and concentrate on one or two of the high level purposes.

**Agreed:**

- **The progress in performance for quarter 1 be noted.**
- **Future performance monitoring reports to concentrate on one or two of the high level purposes at each quarterly meeting in order to make the information more manageable.**

**OS.30 Feedback from Cabinet**

**Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list following consideration of the recommendations from the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013 be noted.**

**OS.31 Work Programme**

The Committee considered the work programme for the municipal year. A Member requested the following items be added onto the work programme for November:

- Update on the Social Fund
- Update on the Council Tax Localisation.

**Agreed: The Committee and Member Services Officer to update the work programme with the suggested items.**

**OS.32 Press Involvement**

There were no future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.04pm.