

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 3RD OCTOBER 2013 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), T Ingham (Vice-Chairman), C Brewer, N Gale, J Greener, V Higgs, D C H McCann, T L Onslow, J Phillips, M Rayner, C Rogers and A M Sewell.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger, N J Desmond, M J Hart, A T Hingley and J A Shaw.

OS.33 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

OS.34 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

OS.35 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor N Gale declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in agenda item 5 – Wyre Forest Health Action Plan Update, as she is a Board Member of The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board, and agenda item 10 – National Non Domestic Rate Relief (NNDR), as she is a Board Member of The Community Housing Group.

Councillor H E Dyke declared a DPI in agenda item 10 – National Non Domestic Rate Relief (NNDR), as her husband works for The Community Housing Group.

Councillor J Greener declared a DPI in agenda item 10 – National Non Domestic Rate Relief (NNDR), as she is a Board Member of The Community Housing Group.

Councillor M Rayner declared a DPI in agenda item 10 – National Non Domestic Rate Relief (NNDR), as she is a Board Member of The Community Housing Group.

Councillor J Phillips declared a DPI in agenda item 10 – National Non Domestic Rate Relief (NNDR), as he is a shared ownership tenant of a Community Housing Group property.

OS.36 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.37 Wyre Forest Health Action Plan Update

The Committee received a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability

Officer which updated Members on the work to improve health and wellbeing in

Wyre Forest, and sought endorsement of the new Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2013/14.

The Strategic Housing Services Manager led Members through the report and highlighted some of the key projects undertaken as part of the 2012/13 action plan.

The Committee considered and discussed each page of the 2013/14 action plan in turn. In response to a Members question regarding the listening events, the Health Improvement Co-ordinator confirmed that the majority of the events had taken place within the areas of highest needs. The Health Improvement Co-ordinator agreed to contact Councillors Sewell and Rayner to see if there were any health related projects that the team may be able to support within their area.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2013/14, as attached at Appendix 2 to the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved.

Councillor N Desmond left the meeting at this point, (6.23pm).

OS.38 Supported Housing for Young People – Local Letting Plan

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Housing Services Manager which outlined the current progress on the Bromsgrove Street Foyer which would provide supported accommodation for young people aged between 16-25 years.

Councillor N Desmond re-entered the meeting at this point, (6.27pm).

Members were updated on the details regarding the establishment of the steering group that would oversee the delivery of the project and agreed it would be beneficial for an Independent Person to be appointed onto the multi-agency appeals panel.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

- **An Independent Person be appointed onto the multi-agency appeal panel.**
- **The Bromsgrove Street Foyer Local Letting Plan be approved.**

OS.39 Wyre Forest District Development Plan: Revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan 2013-16)

The Committee received a report from the Planning Policy Manager on the proposals for the revision of the Local Development Scheme (Project Plan) which would guide the future production of the District's Local Plans.

Members were led through the report and advised that the revised Project Plan provided a realistic programme to focus the Council's objectives for development planning over the next three year period.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The proposed Revised Local Development Scheme 2013-16, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be endorsed.

OS.40 Community Infrastructure Levy

The Committee received an update from the Planning Policy Manager on the work undertaken on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Members considered the report which incorporated the recommendations from the Local Development Review Panel meeting held on 2nd September 2013, where the Panel Members had discussed at length the potential impacts that implementing CIL could have on the Council's Development Strategy.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The progression of a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule is postponed and the position is reviewed again later in 2014.

OS.41 Scoping of Scrutiny Exercise

The Committee considered a scrutiny proposal form regarding the effectiveness of the system for disabled parking permits – “blue badges”.

Agreed:

- **The proposal be progressed by way of a review panel.**
- **The Committee and Member Services Officer to contact Group Leaders asking for nominations for the review panel.**

Councillor V Higgs left the meeting at this point, (7.00pm).

OS.42 National Non Domestic Rate Relief (NNDR)

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place which set out the responses to the consultation carried out during March - May 2013 regarding the new scheme of NNDR relief proposed for April 2014, and presented the final scheme to be agreed at the meeting of the Council's Cabinet on 22nd October 2013.

The Director of Economic Prosperity and Place led Members through the report and a detailed discussion ensued. Following a show of hands, the option set out at 5.1(a) of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was carried.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The responses set out in Appendix 2 and the amendments to the proposed scheme set out at Appendix 1 in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be endorsed.

OS.43 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list following consideration of the recommendations from the meeting on 17th September 2013 be noted.

OS.44 Work Programme

Agreed: The Committee and Member Services Officer to update the Work Programme with the Proposed Levy on Large Retail Outlets Item discussed at September Council.

OS.45 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.53 pm.