

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER 2013 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), J Aston, 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: N J Desmond and M J Hart.

OS.46 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T Ingham (Vice-Chairman).

OS.47 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor J Aston was appointed as a substitute for Councillor T Ingham.

OS.48 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.49 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillors A M Sewell and M Rayner entered the meeting at this point, (6.01pm).

Members received a briefing from the Chief Financial Officer regarding a recent announcement by the Co-Operative Bank that they had decided to withdraw from their involvement in providing services to local authorities.

It was noted the Council was currently in the process of tendering for banking services and an award was planned before Christmas 2013.

Councillors T L Onslow and D C H McCann entered the meeting at this point, (6.07pm).

**OS.50 Recommendations from Treasury Management Review Panel:
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
Mid-year Review Report 2013/14**

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Financial Officer which provided

Agenda Item No. 4

Members with a mid-year review of the Council's treasury management policies, practices and activities in accordance with the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.

Recommend to Cabinet to recommend to Council:

The Treasury Management Mid-Year Review and updated Prudential Indicators be approved.

OS.51 Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority – Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020

Members considered a report from the Chief Executive on the Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Authorities Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020.

Members were advised consultation on the draft plan finished on 10th January 2014 and a decision by the Fire Authority would be made on 19th February 2014.

A Members briefing session regarding the proposals had been held on 24th October 2013, which helped inform the debate which ensued.

Following a show of hands the Committee agreed to recommend to Council that a response to the consultation be submitted. It was noted Councillors V Higgs and A M Sewell objected to any service cuts and voted against the decision.

Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that the following response should be submitted to the consultation:

- 1. Wyre Forest District Council makes no comment about the proposal relating to Bewdley but objects to any proposal to reduce Kidderminster to a single engine when much smaller towns (such as Bromsgrove, Malvern and Droitwich) are proposed to retain two engines. It is recognised that the other towns have their first engine crewed on a different basis, which is not whole-time shift;**
- 2. The number of members of the Fire and Rescue Authority should be reduced, together with a reduction in related training costs;**
- 3. The Council considers that any further reductions in fire cover for Wyre Forest in future would be unacceptable.**

OS.52 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list following consideration of the recommendations from the meeting on 22nd October 2013 be noted.

OS.53 Work Programme

The Chairman advised that there were places remaining on the Blue Badge Review Panel.

Agreed:

- **The work programme be noted.**
- **The Committee and Member Services Officer to re-send the email to Group Leaders requesting nominations for the Blue Badge Review Panel.**

OS.54 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.51pm.