

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 9TH JANUARY 2014 (6PM)

Present:

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

Observers

Councillors: M J Hart and J A Shaw.

OS.75 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

OS.76 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

OS.77 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

The Chairman announced that the Committee's response to Worcestershire County Council's (WCC) subsidised bus service consultation had been submitted, an acknowledgement of receipt and thanks to the Committee for submitting the response had been received from WCC.

OS.78 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following:

OS.73 Worcestershire County Council Subsidised Bus Services Review 2013

- The safety of children walking to school and the duty of care Councils have towards safeguarding children.

Members felt the service user numbers should be made available to enable the consultees to make informed judgements about the services at risk.

Be amended to:

- The Council's duty of care in respect of safer routes to school.

Members felt the service user numbers should be made available to enable the consultees to make informed judgements about the services at risk, it was agreed this was a major flaw in the consultation material.

OS.79 New Leisure Centre Update

The Committee received a report from the Cultural Services Manager which summarised the progress made on the new leisure centre.

Councillor T L Onslow entered the meeting at this point, (6.04pm).

The Cultural Services Manager led Members through the report and the following points were highlighted:

- The project timetable was a draft document and subject to change.
- Discussions were ongoing with the St Francis Group regarding acquiring land on the Silverwoods site. Heads of Terms were in the process of being finalised.
- The application to Sport England for external funding was scheduled to be considered at their board meeting on 20th January 2014.
- Confirmation that intended funding had been secured from Worcestershire County Cricket for indoor nets / mats and enhanced lighting for the hall, had been received.
- The outline planning application for the Silverwoods site was now scheduled to be determined in April 2014.

A discussion ensued regarding the Sport England funding application and the financial implications for the Council. The Cultural Services Manager agreed to provide an update to Members on the outcome of the Sport England Board Meeting first stage application process on 20th January 2014.

Members also requested an update on the work being undertaken on the disposal of the Glades Leisure centre site, it was agreed that the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place be invited to the next Committee meeting. As way of background information, the Chairman asked the Committee and Member Services Officer to circulate the papers relating to the decisions made relating to the Eastern Gateway to Members of the Committee.

Agreed:

- **The update be noted.**
- **The Cultural Services Manager to update the Committee Members on the outcome of Sport England's Board Meeting on 20th January 2014.**
- **The Director of Economic Prosperity and Place be invited to the next Committee Meeting to provide an update on the work undertaken by the Economic Development Team in relation to the disposal of the Glades Leisure Centre site.**

- **The Committee and Member Services Officer to circulate papers relating to the Eastern Gateway to Committee Members.**

OS.80 Home Choice Plus Allocation Policy Review

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Housing Services Manager which outlined the proposed changes to the Allocations Policy following amendments made to the legislation governing allocations in the Localism Act 2011.

The Strategic Housing Services Manager led Members through the report and attached appendices. Members discussed the proposed changes and requested the results of the consultation be brought back to a further meeting of the Committee prior to approval of the final policy.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

- **That approval be given to the Strategic Housing Services Team to consult on the proposed allocations policy changes.**
- **That the Home Choice Plus questionnaire as attached at Appendix 2 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, is approved as the appropriate means to undertake the consultation.**
- **That the results of the consultation be brought back to a further meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee prior to approval of the final policy.**

OS.81 Work Programme

The Chairman advised that an additional meeting of the Committee had been arranged for Thursday 30th January 2014 to consider the proposals to transfer Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services to Civica.

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.82 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7pm.