

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 2014 (6PM)

Present:

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

Observers

Councillor N J Thomas.

OS.83 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Gale and V Higgs.

OS.84 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor P B Harrison was appointed as a substitute for Councillor N Gale.

OS.85 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.86 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.87 New Leisure Centre Update

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

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

- The draft contract for acquiring land on the Silverwoods development site had been received from the St Francis Group and was in the process of being finalised.
- The application to Sport England for funding from the Strategic Facilities Fund had progressed to stage two of the process. The project would be submitted for a final funding decision on 20th May 2014.
- Worcestershire County Cricket had confirmed that they would definitely provide funding for indoor nets / mats and enhanced lighting for the hall.

Agenda Item No. 4

- The outline planning application for the Silverwoods site would be determined at the planning committee on 8th April 2014.

The Cultural Services Manager reminded Members of the process for the Sport England funding application, and drew their attention to the application criteria set out on page 9 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman requested a copy of the draft project timetable be made available for reference at future meetings.

The Committee received an update from the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place on the Eastern gateway site. Members were advised the Council were continuing productive discussions with a large retailer regarding a retail led regeneration of the Eastern gateway site which included the Glades Leisure Centre.

The Chairman asked Members to contact the Cultural Services Manager and Director of Economic Prosperity and Place directly if they required further clarification on any points raised from the updates.

Agreed:

- **The update be noted.**
- **The draft project timetable be made available for reference at future meetings.**
- **Committee Members to contact the Cultural Services Manager and Director of Economic Prosperity and Place for further clarification on any points raised from the updates.**

OS.88 Chaddesley Corbett Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14 Consultation Response

The Committee received a report from the Senior Forward Planning Officer which sought approval of the District Council's response to the Draft Chaddesley Corbett Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

The Senior Forward Planning Officer led Members through the report and advised that the public consultation ran from 10th January to 24th February 2014. Members were advised the report had been fully scrutinised and endorsed at the meeting of the Local Development Framework Review Panel on 27th January 2014.

The Senior Forward Planning Officer reminded Members of the District Council's Duty to support neighbourhood planning and that funding was available from Central Government to meet the costs of the authority.

A representative from Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council addressed the Committee and confirmed the Parish Council fully supported the draft plan. Members congratulated the Parish and Officers on their hard work in producing the plan.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

- **To submit the response set out at Appendix 2 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council as the District Council's formal response to the Regulation 14 consultation.**
- **To give delegated authority to the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place to publish the Neighbourhood Plan upon its receipt and to appoint an examiner to undertake an examination of the Plan.**

The two representatives from Chaddesley Corbett Parish Council left the meeting at this point, (6.34pm).

OS.89 How Are We Doing? Performance Update (Q3)

The Committee received an update report on the performance of the Council for quarter 3, from 1st October to 31st December 2013.

The Business Improvement Officer led Members through the report and advised at this stage none of the projects appeared significantly adrift or unlikely to be completed.

The Operational Manager informed Members of the benefits of having designated Customer Service Advisors based at the Depot, and the work undertaken to ensure messages about the service areas were clear and easy to understand.

Agreed: The progress in performance for quarter 3 be noted.

OS.90 Recommendations from The Treasury Management Review Panel: Treasury Management Strategy 2014-15

The Committee considered the recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel regarding the restated Prudential Indicators and Limits, the updated Treasury Management and Investment Policy and Strategy Statements, the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement and the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator.

The Chairman of the Review Panel, Councillor T Ingham, presented the recommendations and advised that Members had received a two hour training session from the Council's treasury advisor, Capita, prior to the meeting.

The Chief Financial Officer led Members through the report and a discussion ensued regarding the sale of the Council's Landsbanki Icelandic bank investment resulting in the recovery of a significant amount of the debt.

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

- **Approve the restated Prudential Indicators and Limits for the financial years 2014/15 to 2016/17 included in Appendix 3 to the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

- **Approve the updated Treasury Management and Investment Policy and Strategy Statements for the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015 (the associated Prudential Indicators are included in Appendix 3 to the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the detailed criteria is included in Section 10 and Appendix 5).**
- **Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement that sets out the Council's policy on MRP included in Appendix 1 to the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**
- **Approve the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator Included in Appendix 3 to the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

OS.91 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list following consideration of the recommendations from the meeting on 21st January 2014 be noted.

OS.92 Work Programme

The Chairman advised an additional meeting date had been identified in March if the Committee felt they needed a further meeting to discuss the items listed on the work programme for March 2014.

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.93 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.14pm.