

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 6TH MARCH 2014 (6PM)

Present:

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

Observers

Councillors: I Hardiman, M J Hart, A T Hingley and B McFarland.

OS.94 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: G W Ballinger and A M Sewell.

OS.95 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor H J Martin was appointed as a substitute for Councillor A M Sewell. Councillor N J Thomas was a substitute for Councillor G W Ballinger.

OS.96 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.97 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor T L Onslow entered the meeting at this point, (6.02pm).

OS.98 Affordable Housing SPD – Consultation Draft

The Committee considered a report from the Senior Forward Planning Officer which updated Members on the recent Affordable Housing SPD Early Engagement consultation. The report also outlined the content of the Draft Affordable Housing SPD and the proposals for undertaking consultation on that document.

The Senior Forward Planning Officer led Members through the report and appendices, and outlined the results of the early engagement consultation and the proposals for consulting on the Draft Affordable Housing SPD.

The Committee requested a cross reference to the Worcestershire County

Agenda Item No. 4

Council's parking standards be included at section 8.10 of the draft document.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The Consultation Statement and Draft Affordable Housing SPD, as amended and set out at Appendices 1 and 2 in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved for public consultation.

OS.99 New Leisure Centre Update

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

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

- The tender documents had been completed and invitation to tender would be issued week commencing 10th March 2014.
- The outline planning application for the Silverwoods site would be determined at the planning committee on 8th April 2014
- The project timetable is a working document and subject to change as the project progresses.

Agreed: The update be noted.

OS.100 Commercial Approach to Kidderminster Town Hall

The committee received a report from the Cultural Services Manager which outlined the commercial approach which had commenced for Kidderminster Town Hall and detailed the plans for the future management of the Town Hall.

Members were shown a DVD that had been produced to highlight the Town Halls rock heritage. The Community Development Manager led Members through the report and highlighted the work undertaken on the development of a new website.

A positive debate ensued and Members welcomed the report, the direction of travel was endorsed and it was agreed Members would be invited to the Town Hall to receive regular updates on the teams progress.

Agreed:

- **The report be endorsed.**
- **The Community Development Manager to arrange dates for informal update sessions for Members at the Town Hall, and arrange for the dates to be circulated accordingly.**

OS.101 Develop a Strategy for the Future Sustainability of Arts, Play, Events, Sports and Leisure

Agenda Item No. 4

The Committee received a report from the Cultural Services Manager which detailed the approach to be adopted by the Cultural Services team to achieve an additional income of £10,000, growing to at least £20,000 as identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014-17.

The Cultural Services Manager led Members through the report and advised that whilst the £10,000 target was a challenging one, the staff within Cultural Services had a very positive attitude and continued to develop plans and ideas to achieve the additional income amount, however it was acknowledged that this amount of money was also very weather dependent.

Agreed:

The timescale for the review of suitable management vehicles be endorsed.

OS.102 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list following consideration of the recommendations from the meeting on 18th February 2014 be noted.

OS.103 Work Programme

The Chairman advised there would be no meeting in June 2014, due to the Elections taking place on 22nd May 2014.

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.104 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.19pm.