

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 3RD APRIL 2014 (6PM)

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**Present:**

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

**Observers**

There were no members present as observers.

**OS.105 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D C H McCann.

**OS.106 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor S J Williams was appointed as a substitute for Councillor D C H McCann.

**OS.107 Declarations of Interests by Members**

Councillor H E Dyke declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in agenda item 6 – The Community Housing Group (TCHG) Tenant Services Committee / Central Tenants Forum, as her husband works for (TCHG).

Councillor N Gale declared a DPI in agenda item 6 – (TCHG) Tenant Services Committee / Central Tenants Forum, as she is a Board Member of (TCHG).

Councillor J Greener declared a DPI in agenda item 6 – (TCHG) Tenant Services Committee / Central Tenants Forum, as she is a Board Member of (TCHG).

Councillor M Rayner declared a DPI in agenda item 6 – (TCHG) Tenant Services Committee / Central Tenants Forum, as she is a Board Member of (TCHG).

**OS.108 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 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.109 New Leisure Centre Update**

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

## Agenda Item No. 4

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

- The exchange of contracts with the St Francis Group was scheduled to take place in the next few days.
- The outline planning application for the Silverwoods site would be determined by the Planning Committee on 8th April 2014.
- The final application to Sport England regarding the application for external funding from the Strategic Facilities Fund would be determined on 20th May 2014.

In response to a Members question regarding public transport connections to the Leisure Centre site from all areas of the District, the Cultural Services Manager advised that contact would be made with local bus companies to discuss routes to the site.

**Agreed: The update be noted.**

The Chairman welcomed Gill Smith (Resident Involvement Manager), Phil Roberts, (Chairman of the Tenant Services Committee / Central Tenants Forum) and several tenants of (TCHG) to the meeting.

Councillors H E Dyke, N Gale, J Greener and M Rayner left the meeting at this point, (6.06pm). Councillor T Ingham took the chair.

### **OS.110 The Community Housing Group – Tenant Services Committee / Central Tenants Forum**

The Committee received an update report on the implementation of the new Tenant Involvement structure following the election of tenant representatives to the Tenant Services Committee in September 2013.

A representative from the Community Housing Group led Members through the report and highlighted the outcome of a tenant led review of the process for electing tenants on to the Tenant Services Committee. A debate ensued around the proposal to consult tenants on a move from an election to a selection process.

The Committee heard from Phil Roberts, Tenant Services Committee/Central Tenants Forum Chairman and several of the Tenants who spoke in favour of a selection process and the benefits it would bring.

Councillor G W Ballinger entered the meeting at this point, (6.42pm).

A Member expressed concern over the loss of democracy if Tenants were selected as opposed to elected. Upon a show of hands, the Committee agreed their preference that appointments to the Tenant Services Committee should continue to be made by an election process.

**Agreed: The Committee recommends that appointments to the Tenant**

**Services Committee continue to be made by an election process.**

Councillors H E Dyke, J Greener and M Rayner re-entered the meeting at this point and Councillor Dyke resumed the chair, (6.53pm).

**OS.111 Work Programme**

**Agreed: The Work Programme be noted.**

**OS.112 Press Involvement**

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.55pm.