

Open

# Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Agenda

6pm  
Thursday, 1st May 2014  
Council Chamber  
Wyre Forest House  
Finepoint Way  
Kidderminster



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### Members of Committee:

<b>Chairman: Councillor H E Dyke</b>	
<b>Vice-Chairman: Councillor T Ingham</b>	
<b>Councillor G W Ballinger</b>	<b>Councillor C Brewer</b>
<b>Councillor N Gale</b>	<b>Councillor J Greener</b>
<b>Councillor V Higgs</b>	<b>Councillor D C H McCann</b>
<b>Councillor T L Onslow</b>	<b>Councillor M Rayner</b>
<b>Councillor C Rogers</b>	<b>Councillor A M Sewell</b>

Would Members please note that, to ensure continuity in scrutiny, substitutes should only be appointed for the Scrutiny Committee in exceptional circumstances.

### Information for Members of the Public:

**Part I** of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

**Part II** of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

### **Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters**

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of this constitution for full details.

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)**

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

### **Co-opted Members**

Scrutiny Committees may wish to appoint Co-Opted Members to sit on their meetings in order to add value to the scrutiny process. To appoint a Co-Opted Member, a Committee must first agree to appoint either a specific person or to approach a relevant organisation to request that they put forward a suitable representative (e.g. the local Police Authority). Co-Optees are non voting by default but Committees can decide to appoint voting rights to a Co-Optee. The Co-Option of the Member will last no longer than the remainder of the municipal year.

Scrutiny Committees can at any meeting agree to terminate the Co-Option of a Co-Opted Member with immediate effect. Where an organisation is appointed to put forward a Co-Opted Member, they are able to send a substitute in exceptional circumstances, provided that they notify Democratic Services in advance. Co-Opted Members must sign up to the Members Code of Conduct before attending their first meeting, failure to sign will mean that they are unable to participate. This also applies to substitute Co-Opted Members, who will need to allow sufficient time before a meeting in order to sign the Code of Conduct.

The following will apply:

- i) The total number of voting co-opted members on any Scrutiny Committee will not exceed 25% at any one time.
- ii) The total number of voting Co-opted Members on any Review Panel will not be limited.

- iii) Those Co-opted Members with voting rights will exercise their rights in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in the constitution.

**For Further information:**

**If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information, you should contact Louisa Bright, Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email [louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)**

Wyre Forest District Council  
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 1st May 2014

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1 - Open to the press and public

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Appointment of Substitute Members</b>  To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, notice of which has been given to the Solicitor of the Council, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interests by Members</b>  In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered.  Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	<b>Minutes</b>  To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April 2014.	6
5.	<b>New Leisure Centre Update</b>  To consider a report from the Cultural Services Manager which summarises the progress made on the new leisure centre.	9
6.	<b>Enforced Sale Policy</b>  To consider a report from the Principal Environmental Health Officer (Housing) which sets out the approach the Council will take when considering whether to recover debt through an enforced sale of property.	11
7.	<b>Update on Worcestershire County Council Subsidised Bus Services Consultation</b>  To consider a report from the Policy and Monitoring Officer which provides an update on the County Council's consultation on the proposed reduction of subsidised bus services.	16

8.	<p><b>Update on Review Panels</b></p> <p>To receive verbal updates on the Parking Enforcement and Blue Badge Review Panels.</p>	-
9.	<p><b>Work Programme</b></p> <p>To review the work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Sustainable Community Strategy Theme, Corporate Plan Priority, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.</p>	22
10.	<p><b>Press Involvement</b></p> <p>To consider any future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.</p>	
11.	<p><b>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</b></p>	
12.	<p><b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b></p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

13.	<p><b>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</b></p>	
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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.





## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

Report of: Kay Higman, Cultural Services Manager

Date: 1st May 2014

Open

### New Leisure Centre Update

#### 1. Summary

1.1 This regular report summarises the progress made on this project.

#### 2. Background

2.1 Members will be aware of the background to this project as this was the subject of a detailed scrutiny review, members briefing and recent Cabinet report and decisions. The decision to go forward with a new leisure centre and rationalise current provision dates back to January 2012.

#### 3. Key Issues

3.1 Exchange of contracts with the St Francis Group regarding purchase of Silverwoods took place on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014. A returnable (less Seller's abortive costs) deposit of 5% of the purchase price has been made to the St Francis Group. Outline planning permission was approved by Planning Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and the completion of the purchase will take place after the judicial review period of 6 weeks from the issue of the decision notice has passed.

3.2 Further documentation is being submitted to Sport England regarding the application for external funding from the Strategic Facilities Fund. The final application is to be determined on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

3.3 The tender documents have been issued and clarification meetings with the contractors are underway.

#### 4. Timetable for the project

4.1 The full timetable for the project was attached previously. Key dates are as follows:

Final application determined by Sport England Board - 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014

Tenders received – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Appoint operator – 19<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014

Commence build on site – January 2015

Centre opens to public – 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

**5. Options**

5.1 There are currently no options for this committee to debate at this stage.

**6. Consultation**

6.1 A consultation/communication plan is continually being updated and there will be press releases and key communication with the media, staff and the public as appropriate.

**7. Related Decisions**

7.1 The budget process is a related decision and the new leisure centre will provide a saving to the Council on current revenue budgets.

**8. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies**

8.1 Council's Corporate Plan.

**9. Implications**

9.1 There are no additional implications to report.

**10. Equality Impact Needs Assessment**

10.1 This has been carried out and reveals no significant impact.

**11. Wards affected**

11.1 All.

**12. Appendices**

12.1 Nil.

**13. Background Papers**

Nil.

**Officer Contact Details:**

Name: Kay Higman  
Title: Cultural Services Manager  
Contact Number: 01562 732902



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

Report of: Richard Osborne,  
Principal Environmental Health Officer (Housing)  
Date: 1st May 2014  
**Open**

### Enforced Sale Policy

#### 1. Summary

1.1 This policy sets out the approach the Council will take when considering whether to recover debt through an enforced sale of property, setting out criteria to consider and the decision making process.

#### 2. Background

2.1 The Council has situations where property owners in the District have incurred debts and are not paying those debts. The Law of Property Act 1925 allows for the recovery of debts that have been registered as a charge on that property through an enforced sale of the property.

2.2 Debts that can be recovered this way are typically Council tax debt (this requires an initial stage of legal action to be able to apply the debt as a charge) and costs incurred by the Council that can be directly applied to a property for example Housing Act notice costs and works in default.

#### 3. Key Issues

3.1 In a time of financial pressure the Council needs to ensure that it does not have outstanding debt that is not being cleared in reasonable time. In order to have the option to pursue debt using this mechanism the Council needs to have a policy in place.

3.2 The legislation covering enforced sale can only be undertaken when a charge has been applied to the property itself in a limited range of circumstances so will only be considered in those circumstances. The policy also sets out a timescale to ensure any debtor has reasonable time to resolve those debts prior to such action.

3.3 Having a policy sets out the circumstances when the Council would deem it appropriate and ensures that we have regard to any potential housing need issue that could arise. It is proposed that the decision to instigate enforced sale be taken by the Solicitor for the Council in consultation with the Strategic Housing Services Manager.

- 3.4 This mechanism would be clearly appropriate for long term empty properties where significant debts have accumulated due to for example council tax arrears, works to secure the property etc.
- 3.5 The debt will need to be at least 6 months old before any legal action is considered.
- 3.6 Where the owner can be contacted and has expressed a willingness to make payments to clear the debt either in full or by instalments a longer timescale of 12 months will be given before commencing any legal action.

**4. Options**

- 4.1 The committee may wish to:
- Recommend to Cabinet that the Enforced Sale Policy, as attached at Appendix 1 is approved.
  - Put forward alternative or additional proposals to recommend to Cabinet.

**5. Consultation**

- 5.1 The Enforced Sale Policy has arisen from discussions between the Strategic Housing Services Section, the Legal and Finance Sections.

**6. Related Decisions**

- 6.1 None.

**7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies**

- 7.1 Worcestershire Housing Strategy.

**8. Implications**

- 8.1 Resources: Some staffing resources and court costs to bring cases, however offset by the ability to recover outstanding debts.
- 8.2 Equalities: There are no negative impacts in terms of equality that would arise from this proposal.
- 8.3 Partnership working: none.
- 8.4 Human Rights: Right to property considered under the policy.
- 8.5 E-Government: none.
- 8.6 Transformation: none.

**9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment**

- 9.1 An initial equality needs impact assessment has been undertaken as part of an equality needs assessment for general enforcement action undertaken by the Private Sector Housing team.

**10. Wards affected**

10.1 All wards.

**11. Appendices**

11.1 Draft Enforced Sale Policy 2014.

**12. Background Papers**

[Law of Property Act 1925](#)

**Officer Contact Details:**

Name: Richard Osborne  
Title: Principal Environmental Health Officer (Housing)  
Telephone: 01562 732564

## **Wyre Forest District Council Enforced Sale Policy 2014**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the circumstances in which Wyre Forest District Council will undertake an enforced sale of a property. It is anticipated that this will only be used in exceptional circumstances when other legal powers are not appropriate and/or available to the Council to resolve a problem / debt that has arisen.

### **The benefits of using an Enforced Sale include:**

There are some particular benefits of the enforced sale policy that can't be easily realised through other legislation available to the council.

In practise, the Council will recover the outstanding debt either from the proceeds of sale or by way of the payment of the debt being made before the sale is completed.

The benefits of using the enforced sale to resolve empty properties are as follows;

1. If a property is empty it is hoped that following a sale the new owner will carry out such renovation as would allow it to be occupied again. By change of ownership the Council is less likely to be burdened with additional costs arising from action against the property conditions that may be affecting others.
2. The application of this policy may encourage other property owners throughout the district to pay their debts and keep their properties in a reasonable state and condition.

### **When can the Council apply the Enforced Sale Policy**

Where the Council has incurred costs in relation to a property, and where statute permits (i.e. there are numerous statutory provision which such costs are capable of being registered as a Local Land Charge pursuant to a specific statutory provision), the Council may recover the costs by an Enforced Sale of that property.

### **Specific Criteria that WFDC will use**

Subject to complying with the relevant legislation, where:

1. such debts are in excess of £1000;
2. have been outstanding for at least 6 months;

3. the owner of the property has either refused to pay (even by agreed instalments within a reasonable timescale, normally 12 months), is unable to pay or cannot be located; and
4. any equality and diversity issues or human right issues relating to the Enforced Sale can be overcome,

the Council may seek to use an Enforced Sale Procedure to recover the debt from the proceeds of sale.

The decision to instigate an enforced sale will be taken by the Solicitor for the Council based upon the above principals where it is deemed to be in the interests of the Council's financial wellbeing and local residents and help the Council meet its Strategic Housing Objectives.

An enforced sale would not normally be undertaken on an owner-occupied property unless there are compelling reasons and any residents are able to move to alternative accommodation.

### **Conclusion**

The enforced sale policy is only likely to be used in exceptional circumstances when other methods of dealing with the problem / recovering a debt have been exhausted or aren't appropriate and the debt will need to be at a reasonable level.

Approval to instigate an enforced sale must be obtained from the Solicitor for the Council.



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Briefing Paper

Report of: Heather Stone, Policy and Monitoring Officer

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014

### Open

## Update on Worcestershire County Council Subsidised Bus Services Consultation

### 1. Summary

1.1 As requested by the Chairman of the Committee, this report provides Members with an update on the County Council's consultation on the proposed reduction of subsidised bus services which closed on January 17<sup>th</sup> 2014.

### 2. Background

2.1 A report on the proposed reduction of subsidised bus services was considered by this Committee in December 2013. Within Wyre Forest District, there were a total of 15 bus services at risk plus a number of school services serving Wolverley C of E Secondary School. The public consultation undertaken by the County Council aimed to identify passenger travel information (frequency and purpose of journey) and potential impacts of a reduced service and ascertain if an increase in fares could reduce the need for subsidy.

2.2 This Committee responded to the consultation by sending a detailed response setting out the following key points:-

- Loss of a regular bus service will especially hit elderly living in sheltered accommodation who are less likely to have access to a car
- Sion Hill Estate is amongst 20% most deprived areas in England with only 1 in 4 households having a car. It is also situated at top of steep hill. Consultation should also consider topographical barriers to movement
- Very concerned at the potential loss of school services, especially those serving Wolverley School which has very poor pedestrian access. Also routes serving colleges and university
- Very concerned at the loss of off-peak services to Wyre Forest itself and impact on sustainable tourism measures



## **Agenda Item No. 7**

- Concerns relating to the potential adverse impact on the regeneration of Kidderminster, especially the night time economy.
- Consultation has not paid regard to policies in Local Plan with many allocated sites lying along at risk routes
- Many routes have minimal subsidy. A small fare increase could aid retention
- Actual consultation process and material available is flawed. Little data available on passenger numbers. Over emphasis on web-based consultation. Many users will not have access to internet

### **3. Worcestershire County Council's response to consultation feedback**

- 3.1 Following consideration of a report at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the Worcestershire County Council Cabinet agreed to look in detail at the responses received before making a final decision. In total over 8,500 responses were received to the consultation.
- 3.2 The Cabinet agreed that a number of factors will need to be considered before any final decision is taken on possible service reductions. These will include:
- Evaluating on a service-by-service basis the detailed responses to the consultation and
  - A thorough review of existing data on passenger journeys made on the current subsidised network. This will take in to account journey types, purposes and access to key destinations.
- 3.3 In addition, a review of fares will take place in partnership with commercial operators to establish what contracts would become viable or could operate with a significantly reduced subsidy.
- 3.4 The County Council will also continue to explore potential opportunities where, in particular, community transport or commercial operators might provide public transport services.

### **4. Timetable for further consideration**

- 4.1 The County Council is not expected to make any final decisions on changes to subsidy or bus routes until June 2014. No changes will be implemented until September 2014. Officers will keep Members informed with further updates on the review as these stages are reached.

**5. Options**

5.1 The Committee may wish to:

- a) Note the information contained in the report with regard to the next steps and timetable for implementing the review of countywide bus services.

**6. Consultation**

N/A

**7. Related Decisions**

N/A

**8. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies**

Adopted Core Strategy (December 2010)

Adopted Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan (July 2013)

Adopted Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan (July 2013)

**9. Implications**

N/A

**10. Wards affected**

10.1 District wide impact

**11. Appendices**

Appendix 1: Wyre Forest District Council response to Worcestershire County Council's Transport Review 2013

**12. Background Papers**

Worcestershire County Council Cabinet Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2014

Agenda item 7

<https://public.worcestershire.gov.uk/web/home/DS/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fweb%2Fhome%2FDS%2FDocuments%2FCommittees%2C%20Panels%20and%20Reviews%2FCabinet%2FAgendas%20and%20Reports%202014&FolderCTID=0x01200002FEC5A935DD7249B89E1A0164F7DA72&View={F63EB537-6E56-4C99-B168-175967DA6019}>

**Officer Contact Details:**

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Title: Policy and Monitoring Officer  
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**Wyre Forest District Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Response to Transport Review 2013:**

**Worcestershire County Council Consultation on Subsidised Bus Service Withdrawals**

Wyre Forest District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has fully considered the consultation documents at its meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013. The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee authorises the submission of the following points and comments made by Committee Members.

1. The potential loss of a regular bus service will particularly hit the elderly, especially those in sheltered accommodation who are less likely to have access to a car. There are high numbers of rented sheltered units along a number of "at risk" routes including those serving Fairfield (bus routes 4A, 7 and 580), Lickhill (bus routes 15, 192 and 294), George Street/Offmore Road (bus route 7A), Deansway (bus route 7), Blakedown (bus route 197) and Bliss Gate (bus route 291), together with small developments around Chaddesley Corbett parish (bus route 133) and Shatterford (bus route 297).
2. The Sion Hill estate is amongst the 20% most deprived areas in England and car ownership within the ward is around only 1 in 4 households (2011 Census). Two of the at risk bus routes serve this community, numbers 7 and 580. This estate is situated up a very steep hillside and access to services in the town centre by foot is not really practicable for most residents. It is requested that due consideration should be given to topographical barriers to movement on foot or by bicycle when considering service reductions.
3. The Committee is very concerned about the potential loss of a number of school services, both those bringing children in from the rural areas (routes 15 and 291) and those providing access to Wolverley School (routes 830, 831, 833, 834 and 835). The route to Wolverley School is unlit and has very poor pavements, it is not considered to be a safe route to school for children to walk along.

The Committee also expresses great concern about the potential loss of routes connecting Halesowen College and Worcester University (routes 192, 294 and 295). Reduced bus services also have implications for students accessing Kidderminster College and the Kidderminster Academy. Worcestershire County Council has a Duty of Care to enable children to get to school safely, and indeed all those people wishing to access education. Members of the Committee consider that access to education is of paramount importance.

## Agenda Item No. 7 Appendix 1

4. The potential loss of off-peak services through Callow Hill has implications for sustainable tourism initiatives at the Wyre Forest itself and could therefore have an adverse impact on the local economy.
5. It is considered that the loss of these bus services would have significant adverse impact on the District's economy at a time when there is a strong drive to regenerate Kidderminster. The loss of these services would particularly hit the District's night time economy through reduced levels of accessibility. The Committee does not consider that these proposals have had due regard to the Wyre Forest District Adopted Development Plan (Adopted Core Strategy (Dec 2010), Adopted Site Allocations & Policies Local Plan (July 2013) and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan (July 2013).
6. A number of sites recently allocated for development though the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan lie along "at risk" routes. Sites affected include those along route 15 (SAL.WS1 Midland Industrial Plastics, SAL.EA3 Parsons Chain, SAL.EA4 Worcester Road Garage, SAL.EA5 Baldwin Road and SAL.KSS1 Chester Road South Service Station), the Broadwaters Community Centre SAL.KSS1 (routes 7 and 580) and SAL.RS2 at Clows Top on route 291. The impact on the site at Clows Top is especially concerning as this is intended to be an affordable housing development.
7. A number of the "at risk" routes are presently subject to minimal subsidies of less than 50p. A small increase in fares would potentially aid the retention of a number of services including those serving Sion Hill, Fairfield, Halesowen and Wolverley School.
8. Members of the Committee also wish to make a number of points about the consultation process and the consultation material. Firstly, there is little or no information available about user numbers for each of the services at risk. This information is essential to make informed judgements about the potential loss of these services and should be made publicly available. Secondly, the consultation process itself is considered to be found wanting. There is an over emphasis on the use of internet and no contact number is provided for those people who do not have access to email or wish to contact the County Council with specific queries. Therefore it is not considered to be an inclusive consultation which addresses the needs of some of the more vulnerable service users such as the elderly and disadvantaged.
9. To conclude, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee wishes to express its outrage at the potential losses of key bus routes, many of which serve communities which have low car ownership and high numbers of elderly people and also suffer from high levels of multiple deprivation. It is also

considered that this will have severe impacts on accessibility levels across the District.

Councillor Mrs Helen Dyke  
Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
3<sup>rd</sup> January 2013.

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2013-2014**

**June 2013**

Performance Management Quarter 4 Update (including March and annual lagging measures)

Recs from the No Surprises Protocol Review Panel

Recs from the Housing Review Panel

**July 2013**

Development Plan Documents (DPDs)

Scrutiny Scoping Form – Parking Enforcement

Wyre Forest House – update on the savings achieved and other matters relating to the project

Nominations for the Treasury Management Review Panel

**September 2013**

Affordable Housing SPD

How Are We Doing? Performance Update (Q1)

Recs from Treasury Management Panel to approve the Treasury Management Strategy

Backward Look 2012/13

West Midlands Safari and Leisure Park Planning Brief and Masterplan

**October 2013**

Health Action Plan update

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan) 2013 – 2016

NNDR Relief Policy

Internal Signage Proposals

Local Letting Plan for Bromsgrove Street Foyer

**November 2013**

Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Authority – Draft Community Risk Management Plan 2014-2020

Recs from Treasury Management Review Panel – approve the TMSS and Annual Investment Strategy Mid Yr Review Report 2013/14

**December 2013**

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime & Disorder Review

How Are We Doing? Performance Update (Q2)

Social Fund Update

Council Tax Localisation Update

SCA Proposed Levy on Large Retail Outlets

Leisure Centre Update

Recs from LDF Review Panel

19<sup>th</sup> Subsidised Bus Consultation (WCC)

**January 2014**

9<sup>th</sup> Leisure Centre Update

Revised draft of Allocations Policy (for consultation)

**February 2014**

How Are We Doing? Performance Update (Q3)  
Recs from Treasury Management Review Panel – approve the TMSS Report 2014/15  
Leisure Centre Update  
Recs from LDF Review Panel  
Chaddesley Corbett Neighbourhood Plan – Regulation 14 Consultation Response

**March 2014**

Leisure Centre Update  
Draft Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Consultation  
Commercial Approach to Kidderminster Town Hall  
Development of a strategy for the future sustainability of Arts, Play, Events, Sports and Leisure

**April 2014**

Leisure Centre Update  
CHG Tenant Services Committee

**May 2014**

Leisure Centre Update  
Enforced Sale Policy  
Update on the WCC's Bus Services Consultation  
Update on Parking Enforcement / Blue Badge Review Panels

**2014-2015**

**No June meeting due to late Elections in May 2014**

**July 2014**

Leisure Centre Update  
Housing Allocation Policy  
Design Supplementary Planning Document  
Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document  
Chaddesley Corbett Neighbourhood Plan - Examiner's Report and Decision Statement  
– Recommendations from LDF Review Panel 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014  
How Are We Doing? Performance Update (Q4)  
Climate Change Update  
Development of Council's Assets (Exempt)

**October 2014**

Leisure Centre Update  
Design Supplementary Planning Document