

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2014 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: E Davies (Chairman), J Phillips (Vice-Chairman), J Greener, P V Hayward, V Higgs, L Hyde, T L Onslow, M Price, M Rayner, C Rogers, A M Sewell and M J Wrench.

Observers

Councillors: A R Clent, M J Hart and P W Wooldridge.

OS.45 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

OS.46 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

OS.47 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.48 Minutes

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

OS.49 How Are We Doing? Performance Update

The Committee considered a report from the Business Improvement Officer which updated Members on the performance of the Council for Quarter 2 (from 1st July 2014 to 30th September 2014).

An updated copy of the Exception Report was tabled. The Business Improvement Officer led Members through the report and advised that the information relating to the Implementation of CHRIS21 HR System had been updated and the Transfer of Playing Pitches had now been completed.

Members asked what action was being taken regarding WFF 14/15 05 Wyre Forest House, WFF 14/15 10 Shared Services Review, WFF 14/15 51 Implementation of CHRIS21 HR System and WFF 14/15 41 Transfer of Playing Fields. The Business Improvement Officer advised that the Transfer of Playing Fields action had now been completed and was therefore no longer showing on the updated exception

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reports. The Business Improvement Officer advised she would obtain written updates on the Wyre Forest House and Shared Services Review actions and would circulate the information to all Members.

The Chief Financial Officer referred Members to CHRIS21 and advised them that further testing was being done on the system which would mean that officers could input their mileage and expenses claims on line. There had been positive feedback from the test to date but although the project was small it was challenging.

In response to a Member question on the risk of not being able to support local economic recovery, the Director of Economic Prosperity & Place advised that the matter referred to was one of the Council's Corporate Risks and that all the economic projects that the Council was working on contributed to the mitigation of this risk.

Agreed:

- a. **The progress in performance for quarter 2 be noted.**
- b. **The Business Improvement Officer would provide a response on WFF 14/15 05 Wyre Forest House and WFF 14/15 10 Shared Services Review and circulate to Members.**

OS.50 Recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel: Consideration of Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2014/15

The Committee considered a report from the Chief Financial Officer which provided Members with a mid-year review of the Council's treasury management policies, practices and activities in accordance with the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice.

The Chief Financial Officer took Members through the report and advised that a good debate had been held at the Treasury Management Review Panel meeting on 3rd November 2014. Another training session would be held on 28th January 2015 prior to the Treasury Management meeting and Members were asked to forward any items to the Chief Financial Officer which they would like to be discussed at the session.

Members were advised that an announcement today confirmed that there would be no change in the bank rate.

Agreed: Recommend to Council that the mid-year review and updated Prudential Indicators be approved.

OS.51 Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Task Group Final Report

The Committee received a summary of the decision made in respect of the recommendations from the Joint WRS Task Group.

Members were reminded that they had received a presentation from the Members

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leading the joint scrutiny exercise and that an additional meeting had been held to discuss this further. When the joint scrutiny exercise had been presented to the WRS Joint Committee, it had agreed all the recommendations apart from recommendations 7, 8, 9 and 10 where officers had been requested to bring further alternative proposals but it was not known what the timescale for this would be nor what the outcome would be. Members agreed that a lot of work had been carried out and as the Council's appointed representatives, Councillors M J Hart and P B Harrison would continue to speak on behalf of the Council.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that the Joint Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) Task Group Final Report be noted.

OS.52 Work Programme

The Chairman stated she was concerned that no items for the work programme had been raised by Members and she stated that she had recently attended a poverty seminar and thought it was something that the Committee should look at. Members were in full agreement of this.

Agreed:

- a. The January 2015 meeting of the committee be cancelled as there were no items on the work programme.**
- b. The Committee would look at Poverty in the Wyre Forest district and this would be added to the work programme.**

OS.53 Press Involvement

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

Councillor N Knowles entered the meeting at this point, (6.38pm).

The meeting ended at 6.39 pm.