

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 4TH DECEMBER 2014 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors E Davies (Chairman), C Brewer, J Greener, B McFarland, T L Onslow, J Phillips, M Price, C Rogers, A M Sewell, J A Shaw and M J Wrench.

Observers

Councillors G W Ballinger, M J Hart, A T Hingley and P Wooldridge.

OS.54 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P V Hayward, V Higgs, L Hyde and M Rayner.

OS.55 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor C Brewer was appointed as a substitute for Councillor M Rayner. Councillor B McFarland was appointed as a substitute for Councillor L Hyde. Councillor J A Shaw was appointed as a substitute for Councillor V Higgs.

OS.56 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.57 Minutes

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

OS.58 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 application for Sport England lottery funding was successful and the Council was awarded a grant of £2million on 3rd November 2014.
- The tender evaluation process had been completed and the preferred bidder was Places for People Leisure. The contract signing was scheduled to be completed within the next few weeks.

Agenda Item No. 4

- The contract to manage the leisure centre would be for a 25 year period, it would be the contractor's responsibility to repair and maintain the building.

In response to Members' concern over the potential for bus routes to service the new leisure centre, the Director of Economic Prosperity and Place advised that discussions were ongoing with Worcestershire County Council Passenger Transport colleagues and the St Francis Group.

Agreed: The update be noted.

Councillor M J Hart left the meeting at this point, (6.40pm).

OS.59 Worcestershire Hub Update

The Committee received a report from the Corporate Customer Development Manager which provided an update on the current customer demand at the customer service centre in Kidderminster, following changes made to the hub service over recent years.

The Corporate Customer Development Manager led Members in depth through the report and outlined the timeline of significant changes that had taken place which directly affected the front line customer services team such as the introduction of the Welfare Reform Act and changes to housing benefit, and the ability to pay via AllPay.

Agreed: The update of the impact of recent changes to the provision of service delivered by the customer services team be noted.

Councillor T L Onslow left the meeting at this point, (7.02pm).

OS.60 Kidderminster's Music Heritage Trail

The Committee considered a report from the Economic Development and Regeneration Officer (Place) which presented the draft art strategy guidance and outlined the concept, proposals and aims of the project.

Members were taken through the report and art strategy guidance by the Economic Development and Regeneration Officer (Place) and the Arts and Play Development Officer. The Committee discussed the potential logo designs and agreed a guitar should be incorporated into the preferred option logo.

Members welcomed the project and looked forward to further progress updates.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that the document, as attached at Appendix 1 to the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved for consultation.

OS.61 Work Programme

The Chairman advised that Inspector Edd Williams would be attending the February meeting for the Annual Crime and Disorder update, and Poverty in Wyre Forest district would be discussed at the March 2015 meeting.

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.62 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.42pm.