

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 5TH MARCH 2015 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: J Phillips (Vice-Chairman), C Brewer, J Greener, V Higgs, F M Oborski, M Price, M Rayner, C Rogers, A M Sewell, J A Shaw, M J Wrench and G C Yarranton.

Observers

Councillors: M J Hart, A T Hingley, M J Stooke and P Wooldridge.

OS.81 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: E Davies (Chairman), L Hyde and T L Onslow.

OS.82 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor C Brewer was appointed as a substitute for Councillor E Davies.
Councillor J A Shaw was appointed as a substitute for Councillor L Hyde.
Councillor G C Yarranton was appointed as a substitute for Councillor T L Onslow.

OS.83 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.84 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meetings held on 5th February 2015 and 19th February 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.85 Poverty in Wyre Forest

A report was considered from the Strategic Housing Services Manager and the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, North Worcestershire, which provided background information relating to poverty in Wyre Forest and identified work that is currently being undertaken by the Council to tackle poverty.

The Strategic Housing Services Manager led Members through the report and informed them the national average of children that reached good development at 5 years of age was 63.5% but in Wyre Forest it was 60.4%

With regard to life expectancy, the average age for men to die was 84 but in the most deprived area it was 9.2 years lower. In respect to women, the average age

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for women to die was 86 but it was 6.4 years lower in deprived areas.

A Member stated that a lot of the points raised in the report were linked with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) but it was suggested that in future, scrutiny should make a point of requesting the information. It was agreed that in the next municipal year the LSP be asked to provide information and this would be put as an item on the work programme.

It was acknowledged that Mentorlink did a lot of work in the area to help families and individual councillors could donate money out of their Community Leadership Fund if they wished to do so.

Members were referred to the Council website where there was a good explanation on information on housing benefits.

Agreed:

- 1. The findings of the report be noted.**
- 2. The Local Strategic Partnership be asked to provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with up to date information in the next municipal year.**

OS.86

Kidderminster's Music Heritage Trail – Consultation Response and Revised Strategy Document

A report was considered from the Economic Development and Regeneration Officer (Place) which informed Members of the results of the public consultation on the draft document.

The Economic Development and Regeneration Officer (Place) led Members through the report and stated that the consultation had now closed.

Councillor M Stooke left the meeting at this point, (18.48pm) and returned at 18.50pm.

Members held a debate on the music heritage and were reminded that it was aimed at Kidderminster only. Members were informed that a response had been received from Kidderminster College after the deadline date. It was also confirmed that the college had said that their students would be involved in events.

Members agreed that the music heritage trail was exciting for Kidderminster and that it could only grow in the future.

Agreed:

Recommend to Cabinet:

The Committee noted the information and recommended to Cabinet that the document attached at Appendix 1 of the report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee be approved.

The meeting ended at 19.13 pm.