

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

TUESDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2015 (6PM)

Present

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), S Arnold (Vice-Chairman), G W Ballinger, J Greener, A T Hingley, T A Muir, J Phillips, C Rogers, J D Smith and S J Williams.

Observers

Councillors: M J Hart, N Knowles and F M Oborski MBE.

OS.21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J R Desmond and D Little.

OS.22 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor T A Muir was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J R Desmond. Councillor J D Smith was appointed as a substitute for Councillor D Little.

OS.23 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor S Arnold declared an Other Disclosable Interest (ODI) in agenda item 6 – Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan Update – as he works for the Alzheimer’s Society.

OS.24 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.25 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 1 (from 1st April to 30th June 2015).

The Business Improvement Officer led Members through the report and appendices and highlighted the actions which appeared in the exception report.

A discussion ensued and Members requested additional information relating to the car park at Wyre Forest House (WFF 15/16 05) and Members skills and competencies (CORPRISK11), in particular the training available to Members and the participation rates of previous training sessions. Members expressed concern over the rise in the total amount of hours forfeited by staff via the flexi time and toil systems. The Business Improvement Officer was requested to include an in-depth

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report from the Human Resources section on the issue with the quarter 2 performance report to the Committee.

Agreed:

- **The progress in performance for quarter 1 be noted.**
- **The Business Improvement Officer to provide the additional information requested for circulation to Committee Members.**
- **The Business Improvement Officer to include an in-depth report on the total amount of hours forfeited by staff via the flexi time and toil systems (LA042) with the quarter 2 performance report to the Committee.**

OS.26 Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan Update

The Committee received a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer which provided an update on the work to improve health and wellbeing in Wyre Forest. Members were advised the document provided key partners with an opportunity to work together to deliver improved health outcomes.

Councillor C Rogers left the meeting at this point, (6.44pm).

The Strategic Housing Services Manager led Members through the report and highlighted the key issues for Wyre Forest. The Committee discussed the appendices to the report in depth and welcomed further updates on the plan.

Councillor M Hart left the meeting at this point, (7.08pm).

A change to the name of the plan was proposed and seconded and the majority vote was to change the name due to the large amount of information contained within it.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

- **The Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015/16 as attached at Appendix 1 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved.**
- **Consideration be given to renaming the Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan to Information on Wellbeing in Wyre Forest.**

OS.27 Climate Change Update

The Committee considered a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer which provided an update on the implementation of the 2014/15 Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan and sought endorsement of the updated action plan for 2015/16.

The Strategic Housing Services Manager led Members through the report and outlined examples of some of the work undertaken by the Health and Sustainability Team in conjunction with Partners to have the most impact within the District.

The Committee considered each page of the appendices in turn. Members found

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the fuel poverty map very informative and requested an updated map to reflect the new ward boundaries when one was available.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The Climate Change Action Plan 2015/16 as set out at Appendix 2 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved.

OS.28 Annual Report on Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2014/15

The Committee received a report from the Chief Financial Officer which provided a review of the treasury management activities for 2014/15, in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

The Chief Financial Officer led Members through the report and advised that the Council's Treasury Management Consultants, Capita, had provided the first of two Member training sessions on 2nd September 2015. The second session was planned for early February 2016 and all Members were invited to attend.

The Chairman of the Treasury Management Review Panel advised that the report had been fully scrutinised by the Panel at its meeting on 2nd September 2015.

Agreed: Recommend to Council:

- **The Actual 2014/15 prudential and treasury indicators as set out in the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved.**
- **The annual treasury management report for 2014/15 be noted.**

OS.29 Kidderminster Town Centre Market Provision Review Panel

The Committee received a verbal update from the Chairman of the Review Panel, Councillor H Dyke. Members were advised the Panel had been set up to look at where a market would fit within the regeneration of the Town Centre. The Panel had met 3 times and interviews had taken place with the current Market Operator, an independent and national retailer. Views had also been sought from the Charter Trustees, Bewdley Development Trust, Worcestershire Farmers Market Association and Worcestershire Chamber of Commerce.

A public consultation was launched on Thursday 20th August and closed on Friday 4th September. The consultation could be completed online or by filling in a paper copy which was available at the Worcestershire Hub, the Swan Centre and Wyre Forest House. Paper copies of the survey have been distributed to all the businesses in the Town.

The next Panel meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday 17th September, where the Panel would have the opportunity to speak to the Town Centres Manager, and will review the feedback from the consultation and input from guest speakers. Recommendations will be made to inform the market provision tender process.

Agreed: The verbal update be noted.

OS.30 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 14th July 2015 be noted.

OS.31 Work Programme

The Committee reviewed the work programme for the current municipal year. Members were reminded to submit any suggestions for review panels to the Chairman.

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.32 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.57pm.