

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER**

**THURSDAY, 3RD DECEMBER 2015 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), S Arnold (Vice-Chairman), J R Desmond, J Greener, A T Hingley, D Little, T A Muir, C Rogers and S J Williams.

**Observers**

Councillors: J-P Campion and S J Chambers.

**OS.51 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G W Ballinger and J Phillips.

**OS.52 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor T A Muir was appointed as a substitute for Councillor J Phillips.

**OS.53 Declarations of Interests by Members**

Councillor J-P Campion declared an Other Disclosable Interest (ODI) in agenda item 5 – Annual Crime and Disorder Review 2015/16, as he is the Conservative West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner Candidate for the May 2016 Elections. He advised he would remain in the meeting but not take part in that agenda item.

**OS.54 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 5th November 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**OS.55 Annual Crime and Disorder Review 2015/16**

The Committee received an update report from the Community Safety and Partnerships Officer on the progress of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership (NWCSP) during 2015/16.

The Community Safety and Partnerships Officer led Members through the report and advised that the Council had a statutory duty under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 to scrutinise the work of its local CSP.

The Project Officer gave an update on some of the Partnership's key projects and advised that 80 year 10 students from high schools in Wyre Forest and Hagley had signed up as Community Ambassadors. This project provides training in research,

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presentation and interpersonal skills which enables them to confidently deliver community safety messages to their peers.

**Agreed: The update be noted.**

#### **OS.56 Review of Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)**

The Committee received a report from the Senior Planning Policy Officer which updated Members on the Revised Planning Obligations SPD, early engagement consultation and provided a summary of the responses received.

The Senior Planning Policy Officer led Members through the report and advised that the Council's current Planning Obligations SPD was adopted in February 2007 and since that time there had been several changes to the national planning context, including the publication of the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance.

The Committee were advised that the draft Planning Obligations SPD had been fully scrutinised by the Members of the Local Plans Review Panel at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015, and their discussions had included the changes to the pooling of Section 106 contributions, issues surrounding flood alleviation and maintenance of community facilities such as play areas. The Panel asked for a definition of some of the terminology used and asked for the jargon guide to be updated accordingly.

**Agreed: The Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Regeneration approves the draft Planning Obligations SPD alongside the proposed amendments for a six week public consultation period commencing on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.**

#### **OS.57 Local Plan Review - Issues and Options Consultation Responses**

The Committee received a report from the Planning Policy Manager which informed Members of the level and scope of responses received in relation to the public consultation undertaken on the Local Plan Review Issues and Options Consultation, which ran for a six week period from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015.

The Planning Policy Manager led Members through the report and gave a presentation which outlined the 7 options for accommodating future growth within the District. Members were advised the consultation responses and options had been fully scrutinised by the Members of the Local Plans Review Panel at their meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:**

**The consultation responses as set out at Appendices 1 and 3 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, be approved for publication on the District Council's website to help inform the development of the Local Plan Review Preferred Options.**

#### **OS.58 Feedback from Cabinet**

The Committee received the content of the Cabinet decision list. Councillor S Arnold

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expressed his disappointment that the recommendation (e) from the Committee relating to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme Review 2016/17 had not been accepted.

**Agreed: The content of the Cabinet decision list following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015 be noted.**

**OS.59 Work Programme**

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

**Agreed: The work programme be noted.**

**OS.60 Press Involvement**

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.53pm.