

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 2ND JUNE 2016 (6PM)

---

**Present:**

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), M Rayner (Vice-Chairman), J Baker, R Bishop, J R Desmond, N Gale, A T Hingley, C Rogers, S J Walker and S J Williams.

**Observers**

Councillors: M J Hart, T L Onslow and J A Shaw.

**OS.1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Henderson and D Little.

**OS.2 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor J Baker was appointed as a substitute for Councillor D Little.  
Councillor R Bishop was appointed as a substitute for Councillor K Henderson.

**OS.3 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**OS.4 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**OS.5 How Are We Doing? Performance Update**

The Committee received a report from the Head of Transformation and Communications which updated Members on the performance of the Council for quarter 4 (from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016).

Councillor S J Walker entered the meeting at this point, (6.12pm).

Members were led through the report and considered each page of the appendices in turn. In relation to the bar chart on page 18 of the report detailing the data for LA038 (average house price), a request was made for a definition of the term 'Goldilocks'. The Head of Transformation and Communications agreed to arrange for the definition to be circulated to Members.

**Agreed:**

- **The progress in performance for quarter 4 be noted.**
- **The Head of Transformation and Communications to provide Members with a definition of the term ‘Goldilocks’ as set out on page 18 of the report.**

**OS.6 Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy**

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Housing Services Manager which outlined the policy that would be used for placing households who require temporary accommodation and for procuring temporary accommodation to assist with the Council’s duties under the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002).

Councillor T L Onslow left the meeting at this point, (6.26pm), and returned at 6.31pm.

The Strategic Housing Services Manager took Members through the report and advised that the Council had a duty to provide advice and assistance to homeless households and to provide emergency, interim or temporary accommodation for those that required it. Members were advised the emergency accommodation was usually in the form of bed and breakfast or houses in multiple occupation style accommodation.

A discussion ensued and it was agreed a reference should be made to the cross agency working the Strategic Housing Services Team undertake when dealing with complex cases. The Team were complimented for producing a very thorough and easy to understand document.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:**

- **The Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy as set out in appendix 1 of the report, be amended to reflect the cross agency working the Strategic Housing Services Team undertake when dealing complex cases.**
- **The Temporary Accommodation Placement and Procurement Policy, for use by the Strategic Housing Services Team, and its agent, when placing homeless households and procuring emergency and interim accommodation be adopted.**

**OS.7 A Strategy for Enabling Enterprise and Business Growth**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration – North Worcestershire, which proposed the Wyre Forest Enterprise and Business Growth Strategy.

The Director of Economic Prosperity and Place led Members through the report which explained the purpose of the Strategy and the approach the Council

#### **Agenda Item No. 4**

proposed to take to support local enterprise and business growth which would be delivered against the Council's Corporate Priorities.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:**

**The Enterprise and Business Growth Strategy, as set out in appendix 1 of the report, be adopted.**

#### **OS.8 Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review: Revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan 2016 - 2019)**

The Committee received a report from the Interim Planning Policy Manager which presented the proposals for the revision of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) (Project Plan) which will be used to guide the future production of the District's Local Plans.

Councillor M J Hart left the meeting at this point, (7.11pm).

Members were led in depth through the report which had been based on a briefing paper which had been presented to and endorsed by the Local Plans Review Panel in April 2016.

A lengthy debate ensued which included discussions around the need for a balanced and informed review of the Green Belt within the District.

The Committee acknowledged the importance of having an up to date and realistic timetable for the preparation and review of the plan, and as the Council does not hold key decision making meetings during August, the plan be amended accordingly.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:**

- **The programme for the preparation and review of Development Plan, as set out on page 93 of appendix 1 of the report be amended in August 2017 and 2018 to reflect the fact that the Council does not hold key decision making meetings during August.**
- **The proposed Revised Local Development Scheme 2016-19 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (as amended) be adopted.**

#### **OS.9 Tracking Recommendations 2015/2016**

**Agreed: The content of the Tracking Recommendations from 2015/16 be noted.**

#### **OS.10 Feedback from Cabinet**

**Agreed: The content of the Cabinet decision list following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2016 be noted.**

**OS.11 Work Programme**

The Committee considered the work programme for the new municipal year. Members were asked to submit any suggestions for future scrutiny items to the Chairman.

**OS.12 Press Involvement**

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.49pm