

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 2016 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), M Rayner (Vice-Chairman), J R Desmond, P Dyke, N Gale, K Henderson, A T Hingley, D Little, S J Walker and S J Williams.

Observers

Councillors: N J Desmond, M J Hart, N Knowles, S Miah, J D Smith and R J Vale.

The Chairman announced a revised running order for the agenda in that item 6 would be taken before item 5.

OS.51 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

OS.52 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

OS.53 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.54 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.55 Wyre Forest District Buskers Code

The Committee received a report from the Town Centres Manager which asked Members to consider a new policy to regulate buskers across the District (principally in Kidderminster Town Centre).

The Town Centres Manager led Members through the report and advised that Kidderminster was beginning to attract a number of buskers and it was anticipated that this trend would continue as further redevelopment of the Town Centre took place. He added that having a framework in place would assist in dealing with complaints, particularly where a disturbance was caused to businesses and customers were put off from visiting retail premises.

A discussion ensued and Members welcomed the code as it set out what the

Council expected from buskers in a clear and concise manner. Members agreed that it would be beneficial if a reference to buskers not being under the influence of drink or drugs whilst performing could be included in the code.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

- 1. The code be amended to include a reference to buskers not being under the influence of drink or drugs whilst performing.**
- 2. The code, as amended, forms the guidance the Council puts in place for Buskers.**

OS.56 Car Parking Review

The Committee received a report from the Director of Community Well-being and Environment which asked Members to consider a series of proposals put forward following a review of the approach to car parking designation and charges which was undertaken as part of the initial work on the financial strategy.

The Director of Community Well-being and Environment led Members through a power point presentation which set out the reasons for the review. Members were advised that income generated from car parking represented a significant contribution to the external income received by the Council, and the proposed changes were designed to simplify the existing system and make it more accessible with the introduction of an online digital service for season ticket users.

A robust debate ensued and during the discussions several concerns were raised about the proposals, including the withdrawal of the town day free parking initiative and the perceived lack of supporting evidence surrounding the proposal.

Upon a show of hands the recommendation to Cabinet was agreed (6 in favour 4 against).

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the proposals as set out in the report.

OS.57 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet decision list following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 22nd November 2016 be noted.

OS.58 Work Programme

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

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.59 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.02pm.