

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 2ND FEBRUARY 2017 (6PM)

Present:

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

Observers

Councillors: J Baker, I Hardiman, J A Hart, N Martin, F M Oborski MBE, T L Onslow and J D Smith.

OS.60 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S J Walker.

OS.61 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor N Knowles was appointed as a substitute for Councillor S J Walker.

OS.62 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.63 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.64 How Are We Doing? Performance Update

The Committee received a report from the Business Improvement Officer which updated Members on the performance of the Council for quarter 3 (from 1st October to 31st December 2016).

Members were led through the report and considered each page of the appendices in turn. The additional update reports relating to Bewdley Museum and Anti Social Behaviour were welcomed. Members acknowledged the hard work undertaken by the team at the Museum.

Councillor T L Onslow entered the meeting at this point, (6.08pm).

Agreed: The progress in performance for quarter 3 be noted.

OS.65 Treasury Management Strategy 2017-18

The Committee received a report from the Chief Financial Officer which provided Members with background information on the Chartered Institute of Public Finance (CIPFA) Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (Prudential Code), and sought approval for the restated Prudential Indicators and Limits and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statements.

The Chief Financial Officer tabled an update to pages 44 and 70 of the report. The update reflected a revision to the limit for the Council's bank, following advice from the Council's appointed external Treasury Management Advisors, Capita. The update was endorsed by the Treasury Management Review Panel at its meeting on 1st February 2017.

The Chief Financial Officer led Members through the report and advised that this was the final of the 3 statutory reports which would be presented to the Committee in the current municipal year.

The Chairman of the Treasury Management Review Panel, Councillor F M Oborski MBE, advised that the report had been fully scrutinised by the Panel and moved the recommendations for approval. She was pleased to report that there was an increase in the number of Members who attended the training which was carried out by the Council's Treasury Management Advisors, Capita.

A discussion ensued about the importance of Members attending the training sessions as the Council was facing a challenging financial future and was exploring different and innovative ways of working. Therefore, it was essential that Members who were charged with governance and scrutiny responsibilities took advantage of the training provided.

The Chief Financial Officer advised that additional training for Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be programmed in for the next municipal year.

Agreed: Recommend to Council to:

- 1. Approve the restated Prudential Indicators and Limits for the financial years 2017-18 to 2019-20 included in Appendix 3. These will be revised for the February 2017 Council meeting, as per paragraph 7.3 of this report, following any changes to the Capital Programme brought about as part of the budget process other than those proposed by Cabinet on 20th December 2016.**
- 2. Approve the updated Treasury Management and Investment Policy and Strategy Statements for the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 (the associated Prudential Indicators are included in Appendix 3 and the detailed criteria is included in Section 10 and Appendix 5).**
- 3. Approve the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement that sets out the Council's policy on MRP included in Appendix 1.**
- 4. Approve the Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator included in Appendix 3.**

OS.66 Local Transport Plan 4 Consultation

The Committee received a presentation from Worcestershire County Council's Transport Planning Manager and Transport Strategy Team Leader, on the Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) Consultation.

Members were led through a power point presentation and advised that the LTP was a statutory document which all Local Transport Authorities were required to produce, deliver and maintain under the Transport Act (2000) and the Local Transport Act (2008).

The Transport Planning Manager advised that the LTP was a strategic document which contained high-level detail only. He added that the current plan was adopted in February 2011 and since that time there had been major political, social and economic change. The refresh would enable the LTP to be readjusted to match the County Council's growth ambitions and the District's Local Plan Review.

A robust and lengthy debate ensued and several Members expressed concern that issues including improvements to bus services, rail halts and traffic congestion were not being included. Members felt there was a need to engage with both Local Enterprise Partnership's to address concerns about the overall transport funding. The Transport Strategy Team Leader outlined a number of constraints and limitations of the LTP and advised that the County Council had limited influence over the provision of bus services as the majority of them were provided by private operators.

Councillor T L Onslow left the meeting at 7.33pm.

The Planning Policy Consultant advised that the District Council had a good working relationship with the County Council and a report setting out the Council's response to the consultation would be presented at the March meeting of the Overview and Committee, for approval by Cabinet. He added that the response would include concerns raised by Members and would support many of the strategic schemes to attract investment and partnership working within the District.

Agreed:

- **The content of the presentation be noted.**
- **The Principal Committee and Member Services Officer to circulate a copy of the presentation to Members.**

OS.67 Lion Fields, Kidderminster – Development Proposals

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Economic Development & Regeneration – North Worcestershire, which set out the next steps for the Council in bringing forward re-development proposals for 'Parcel 1' of Lion Fields, which forms part of the Kidderminster Eastern Gateway Development Framework.

The Head of Economic Development & Regeneration led Members through the report and advised that the Council had taken active steps to demolish the former Glades Leisure Centre building and prepare the site for re-development. He added

Agenda Item No. 4

that the demolition of the building would increase the attractiveness of the site to developers and give a clear message that the regeneration of Lion Fields was underway.

Members were reminded that the Council set out its aspiration to attract a cinema and leisure hub onto Parcel 1 in the Development Framework, and the developer procurement option would provide greater certainty and control to the Council.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet:

The 'restrictive' procurement process be used to procure a developer to deliver the Council's ambitions for Parcel 1 of Lion Fields.

OS.68 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet decision list following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 20th December 2016 be noted.

OS.69 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.70 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.13pm.