

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 1ST JUNE 2017 (6PM)

Present:

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

Observers

Councillors: N Martin, F M Oborski MBE and J A Shaw.

OS.01 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

OS.02 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

OS.03 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.04 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman announced that agenda item 15 - Capital Portfolio Fund: Proposed Acquisition, had been withdrawn from the agenda.

OS.05 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 4 (from 1st January to 31st March 2017).

Members were led through the report and considered each page of the appendices in turn. In relation to WFF 16/17 31 Eastern Gateway, Members asked for future updates to include the name of the parcel of land which the update related to.

Agreed: The progress in performance for quarter 4 be noted.

OS.06 Churchill and Blakedown Neighbourhood Plan

The Committee considered a report from the Senior Planning Policy Officer which

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updated Members on the Churchill and Blakedown Neighbourhood Plan following the referendum which was held on 4th May 2017.

Members were advised the count took place on 5th May 2017 and the results were that 455 voted yes (87.8%) and 63 voted no (12.2%). The Chairman congratulated the Parish Council on a very positive result.

Agreed: To recommend to Cabinet that the Churchill and Blakedown Neighbourhood Plan be made part of the Development Plan for Wyre Forest District.

OS.07 Strategies for the Capital Portfolio Fund and Loans to Third Parties

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place which presented the strategies that set out the detail of how the Council would operate the Capital Portfolio Fund and Loans to Third Parties.

The Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place, led Members through the report and reminded them that the investment in a Capital Portfolio Fund of £25m and Loans to Third Parties of £10m was agreed by Council in February 2017. He added that the Capital Portfolio Fund would support both regeneration and economic growth whilst the Loans to Third Parties would help deliver the Council's regeneration and economic development objectives in terms of both housing and commercial regeneration in accordance with the corporate plan priority "to support you to contribute to a successful local economy".

The Chairman advised that the consensus from Members was that this was a positive way forward for the Council and welcomed the strategies and involvement of Members.

Agreed: To recommend to Cabinet that the strategies for investing through the Capital Portfolio Fund and through Loans to Third Parties be adopted.

OS.08 Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review (2016-2034): Preferred Options Consultation

The Committee received a report from the Interim Planning Policy Manager which provided an update on the progress made with the Review of the Local Plan through the work of the Local Plans Review Panel. The Committee also considered the proposed documentation for the Preferred Options consultation due to be launched on 15th June 2017.

The Interim Planning Policy Manager led Members through the report and highlighted the key challenges involved in ensuring that the Local Plan makes provision for the required number of houses, which was currently greater than what was required in previous plans; the adequate availability of affordable housing and the provision of sufficient land.

A lengthy discussion ensued and Members acknowledged that as a result of the success of previous plans and the greater need for housing, the brownfield land currently available would not meet the future needs of the District. A Member stressed the importance of ensuring that developments were viable and came with

sufficient infrastructure and services to support them.

The Chairman of the Local Plans Review Panel thanked Officers and Members of the Panel for their hard work in getting to this stage of the process and emphasised the importance of responding to the consultation within the specified time period as comments received before or after the consultation period were unable to be included.

Members welcomed the 8 week public consultation period as it provided an opportunity for local residents and stakeholders across the District to express their views on the two preferred options put forward by the Council.

Agreed: To commend to Cabinet that the Preferred Options consultation document be approved.

OS.09 Tracking Recommendations 2016/2017

The Committee considered the outcome of the recommendations that were made during the 2016/2017 municipal year.

Agreed: The content of the Tracking Recommendations from 2016/2017 be noted.

OS.10 Scrutiny Proposal Form

The Committee considered a scrutiny proposal form submitted by Councillor F M Oborski MBE, and a second form from Councillor J Shaw, on the availability of social rented and affordable housing provision within Wyre Forest.

The Chairman advised that Councillors Oborski and Shaw were happy for the two proposals to be considered together.

Agreed:

- **A review panel to be set up to undertake a scrutiny exercise into the availability of social rented and affordable housing within Wyre Forest.**
- **The Principal Committee and Member Services Officer to contact Group Leaders for nominations to participate in the review panel.**

OS.11 Work Programme

The Committee considered the work programme for the new municipal year.

Agreed:

- **The work programme for new municipal year be noted.**
- **The scrutiny exercise into the availability of social rented and affordable housing to be included in the work programme.**

OS.12 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.59pm.