

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 7TH JUNE 2018 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: H E Dyke (Chairman), M Rayner (Vice-Chairman), P Harrison, N Harris, V Higgs, D Little, F M Oborski MBE, S J Walker BCAv, H S Williams and S J Williams.

Observers

Councillors: C Rogers.

OS.1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: K Henderson, N Knowles and S Miah.

OS.2 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor P Harrison was a substitute for Councillor K Henderson.
Councillor V Higgs was a substitute for Councillor N Knowles.
Councillor F M Oborski MBE was a substitute for Councillor S Miah.

OS.3 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.4 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2018 and the minutes of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on the 1st May 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.5 How Are We Doing? Performance Update

The Committee considered a report from the Business Improvement Officer which updated Members on the performance of the Council for Quarter 4 (from 1st January 2018 to 31st March 2018).

The Business Improvement Officer presented the report and appendices which included detailed updates on the performance against the Council's purposes of Housing and Planning. Members were advised that as there were currently no actions overdue or cancelled, an exception report had not been included for this quarter. She said that a new report had been added at appendix 3 which had been

introduced to provide an update on the Council's Capital Projects. In response to a Member's request for a definition of the term 'Goldilocks' the Business Improvement Officer advised that the term (which is a particular type of gauge display for performance indicators where the target level of performance is in a band between a high / low value) applies to situations where the desired performance is neither too high nor too low (analogous to too hot or too cold) but somewhere in between.

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

OS.6

Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review: Revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan 2018 - 2020)

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Strategic Growth which provided Members with an update on the progress made in undertaking the Local Plan Review, and asked for agreement to a revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) (Project Plan 2018 – 2020) and a revision to the process of pre-application advice in light of the amended timetable.

Councillor S Walker entered the meeting at this point, (6.10pm).

The Head of Strategic Growth took Members through the report and explained that Council's were required to publish up-to-date information on the progress made in preparing their Local Plans against the LDS. She added that Wyre Forest District Council publishes its LDS on the Planning Policy pages of its website.

She outlined the key areas of change since the last review of the LDS in November 2017 which included; the publication of the draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Planning Practise Guidance (PPG) and Developer Contributions which were out to a period of consultation that ended in May 2018; the delay in the date of the publication of the standardised methodology figure from April 2018 to possibly sometime before the Governments summer recess; and the finalisation of sites to be included in the Pre-Submission consultation which can only be completed once the technical evidence base studies are finalised, this includes the Objectively Assessed Housing Need (OAHN) revision which is reliant on confirmation of the Government's standardised methodology figure.

The Development Manager advised Members that during the interim period until its Local Plan is adopted, the Council had a duty under the requirements of paragraph 47 of the NPPF to be able to demonstrate a 5 year supply of land for housing. It was proposed that the Council adopts an appropriately worded 'standing pre-application advice' for developers that would outline the authorities intentions for the District and provide a degree of consistency in the decision making process during the interim period.

A discussion ensued and Members acknowledged that as a result of the Government's delay in confirming the standardised methodology for calculating housing need within the District, the revision to the project plan was unavoidable. Members welcomed the proposed pre-application standing advice for housing and agreed it was a useful tool to be used in the interim period for dealing with hostile planning applications.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that:

- 1.1 The proposed revised Local Development Scheme Project Plan 2018 – 2020 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be adopted.**
- 1.2 The proposed pre-application standing advice for housing as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be adopted.**

OS.7 Recommendations from the PACT Review Panel

The Committee received the recommendations from the Review Panel which had been established to undertake an in-depth review of the effectiveness of Partners and Communities Together (PACT) schemes in Wyre Forest.

The Chairman of the Review Panel, Councillor H Dyke, presented the report which summarised the key findings from the review. She was pleased to report that the total number of respondents to the public consultation survey which took place between 23rd February to 29th March 2018 was 139. She added that the Panel acknowledged that a 'one size fits all' approach to PACT does not work for every area and this should be recognised in any future plans.

Agreed:

- 1. That PACT overall should be noted as a useful method of community engagement for community safety purposes, and that it should continue but in an updated and more effective way.**
- 2. That the Community Safety & Partnerships Officer, Wyre Forest District Council and Inspector Jake Wright, West Mercia Police work together to consider the findings from the review and that a draft action plan is presented to a future Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

OS.8 Tracking Recommendations 2017/2018

The Committee considered the outcome of the recommendations that were made during the 2017/2018 municipal year. Further updates from Officers were requested in relation to the following items:

- Compulsory Acquisition of Land & Properties & Empty Property Strategy
- Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)
- Acquisition of Land in Areley Kings and Riverside Ward

The Chairman requested responses to the queries raised be circulated to Committee Members in due course.

Agreed: The content of the Tracking Recommendations from 2017/2018 be noted.

OS.9 Work Programme

The Committee considered the work programme for the new municipal year. In response to issues raised by members of the public in relation to highways

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maintenance, Members agreed that it would be appropriate to bring forward the review of service standards for highways maintenance which includes grass cutting and weed control, from September / November as previously planned to June / July 2018.

Agreed:

- **The work programme for the new municipal year be noted.**
- **The Principal Committee and Member Services Officer to contact Group Leaders for nominations to participate in the review panel.**

OS.10 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.55pm.