

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 13TH JUNE 2019 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S J Chambers (Vice-Chairman), C J Barnett, N J Desmond, C E E Edginton-White, S Griffiths, T L Onslow, M Rayner, S E N Rook and A Totty.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger, S Miah and J W R Thomas.

OS.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D R Sheppard.

OS.02 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor C J Barnett was appointed as a substitute for Councillor D R Sheppard.

OS.03 Declarations of Interests by Members

Councillor C Edginton-White declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in agenda item no. 6 - Wyre Forest District Local Plan: Revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan 2019-21), and would leave the meeting whilst the item was discussed.

OS.04 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2019 and the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 30th April 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor C Barnett entered the meeting at this point, (6.01pm).

OS.05 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 to 31st March 2019.

The Business Improvement Officer presented the report and appendices which included an exception report for those actions that were approaching their due date or were overdue, detailed reports on the performance against the Council's purposes of Planning and Housing, and a report on the Capital Projects.

The Committee considered each page of the report and appendices in turn. A Member asked for a further update on WFF 18/19 78 Universal Credit; the Business Improvement Officer advised that she would ask the Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services Manager for an update on the latest position which would be circulated to Members.

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

Councillor C Edginton-White left the meeting at this point, (6.07pm).

OS.06 Wyre Forest District Local Plan: Revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan 2019-21)

The Committee considered a report from the Spatial Planning Manager which set out a revised Local Development Scheme (Project Plan 2019-2021). The Local Development Scheme (LDS) was last reviewed in June 2018, and since then a number of changes had been made.

The Head of Strategic Growth presented the report. She explained that consultation on the Local Plan Pre-Submission document and supporting evidence base studies had taken place in November / December 2018. Following receipt of the responses to the consultation it had become apparent that further clarification was needed on some of the technical evidence base documents for the emerging Local Plan. She said this meant that the Local Plan Pre-Submission public consultation would need to be re-opened to allow further comments to be made on the updated supporting evidence base documents.

The Head of Strategic Growth drew Members attention to the revised project plan and advised that the public consultation would take place in September / October 2019, with a view to seeking approval from full Council in February 2020 for submission to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination.

A discussion ensued and in response to a Member question the Spatial Planning Manager confirmed that a full report on the consultation version of the plan would come forward to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in July 2019.

Members acknowledged the importance of the Council being able to demonstrate a 5 year land supply of housing sites, and having an up to date Local Plan to resist hostile planning applications within the District. There was unanimous support by Committee Members for the recommendation to Cabinet.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that:

The proposed revised Local Development Scheme Project Plan 2019 – 2021 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report is approved.

Councillor C Edginton-White re-entered the meeting at 6.24pm.

OS.07 Tracking Recommendations 2018/2019

Agreed: The content of the Tracking Recommendations from 2018/2019 be

noted.

OS.08 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list, following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on 26th March 2019 and the meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee held on 1st May 2019, be noted.

OS.09 Work Programme

The Committee reviewed the work programme for the current municipal year. The Chairman reminded Members that it was within their remit to request items to come forward for in-depth scrutiny by the Committee.

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.10 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.27pm.