

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**KIDDERMINSTER/ROCK ROOM, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY,
KIDDERMINSTER**

THURSDAY, 5TH DECEMBER 2019 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S J Chambers (Vice-Chairman), N J Desmond, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, S Griffiths, S Miah, T L Onslow, S E N Rook and D R Sheppard.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger, B S Dawes, H E Dyke, N Martin, F M Oborski MBE and J W R Thomas.

OS.48 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M Rayner.

OS.49 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor P Dyke was a substitute for Councillor M Rayner.

OS.50 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.51 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.52 Car Park Charges

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place setting out the Administration's proposed changes to car parking charges across the District, which were intended to form part of the fees and charges that would be considered and decided by Cabinet at the meeting on 17th December 2019.

Each proposed change to car parking charges was presented in detail by the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place, including the operational and financial consequences of each proposal together with the combined effect on the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Members were afforded the opportunity to ask detailed questions and make comments on each proposal. It was noted that the proposed changes would require an advertisement of the Car Park Places Order.

Councillor N Martin left the meeting at 6:37pm and returned at 6:39pm.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that:

All the changes described in the report should be implemented, namely: introducing the new charges from 6/4/20, introducing a simplified banding charging structure, removal of the first hour free parking on some car parks, introduction of a 'seasonal increase' in charges in car parks in Stourport and Bewdley between April and October, extending the charging period on all car parks to 9.00pm in the evening and revisions to the suite of season tickets to remove the senior citizen 6 month season ticket as well as all restricted season tickets with effect from 6/4/20.

7:31pm - Councillors B S Dawes, N J Desmond, S Griffiths, S E N Rook and J W R Thomas left the meeting.

OS.53 Crown House Capital Works

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place setting out the proposals for the capital works at Crown House to create a temporary car park once demolition has been completed, to be funded through the Council's Evergreen Investment Fund.

7:36 pm Councillors S Griffiths and S E N Rook returned at this point.

Members asked questions on the proposal which were comprehensively answered by the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that:

The allocation of the capital funding necessary to enable the use of the site as temporary car parking be made from the Evergreen Investment Fund.

Councillor P Dyke left the meeting at this point (7:41pm)

OS.54 Effectiveness of PACT Action Plan

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the Community Safety and Partnership Officer which provided an update on the Action Plan which was implemented jointly with Wyre Forest District Council and West Mercia Police, to help improve the effectiveness of PACT (Partners and Communities Together). Members discussed those areas that still held PACT meetings even though the formal meetings had ended and also the other events being held to replace the PACT meetings. It was agreed that each area had different needs and requirements to engage with members of the public.

Agreed: The contents of the briefing paper be noted and the Community Safety and Partnership Officer to discuss with the Chief Inspector of West Mercia Police the need for a bi-annual public meeting to be kept under review.

Councillor T L Onslow left the meeting at 7:50pm and returned at 7:53pm

OS.55 Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan Update

The Committee considered a report from the Principal Health & Sustainability Officer updating Members on work to improve health and wellbeing in Wyre Forest and to seek endorsement of the new Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2019-20.

Members were alerted to figures showing the rates of male suicide in Wyre Forest were higher than the national average. They discussed groups identified as being at risk of loneliness, including new young mothers, and childhood obesity figures and work that is planned as part of a whole systems approach to obesity.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that:

The Wyre Health Action Plan 2019- 20 as attached at Appendix 2 of the report is approved with the addition of action points for tackling male suicide and loneliness in 'at-risk' groups in Wyre Forest.

8:11pm - Councillor N Martin left the meeting.

OS.56 Climate Change Update

The Committee considered a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer providing an update on implementation of the Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2018/19 and sought endorsement of the updated action plan for 2019/20.

Members were happy to acknowledge the successful Greener Living fairs that had been held in the District and thanked Officers for the work that had been carried out.

Agreed: The Committee noted the progress on implementation of the Climate Change Action Plan 2018/19 as detailed in appendix 1 of the report AND

Recommend to Cabinet that:

The Climate Change Action Plan 2019/20 as attached at Appendix 2 of the report is approved.

OS.57 Feedback from Cabinet

Agreed: The content of the Cabinet action list, following consideration of the recommendations from its meeting on Tuesday 12th November 2019 be noted.

OS.58 Work Programme

The Chairman invited Members to submit items for the January meeting. He informed them that the January meeting would be cancelled if no items were received.

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 8:20pm.