

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

**HELD REMOTELY**

**THURSDAY, 2ND JULY 2020 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

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

**Observers:**

Councillors: G W Ballinger, J F Byng, A Coleman, R H Coleman, H E Dyke, P Dyke, I Hardiman, C Rogers, L Whitehouse and P W M Young.

**OS.14 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**OS.15 Appointment of Substitutes**

No substitutes were appointed.

**OS.16 Declarations of Interests by Members**

Councillor S J Chambers declared an Other Disclosable Interest (ODI) that she is related to the current West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner.

**OS.17 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

Councillor T L Onslow entered the meeting at this point (6:04pm)

**OS.18 Consideration of the flooding motion from Council – Evidence Gathering from Worcestershire County Council, West Mercia Police, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service and Severn Trent**

Members welcomed representatives from several key agencies involved with the flooding support effort and invited them to address the Committee and answer questions on their relevant agencies response to the floods.

Councillor I Hardiman entered the meeting at this point (6:09pm)

**Matt Maginnis - Flood Risk Manager at Worcestershire County Council** presented Members with a report on the contributions made to the flood event

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response and recovery effort by Worcestershire County Council (WCC). He led Members through the report including answers to questions already raised by Members and answered additional questions on the timings of the closure of Bewdley bridge. He clarified that the bridge was closed to support the operation of the barriers as opposed to it being unsafe for users. He explained the processes that were activated by WCC once alerted to flood barrier deployment and discussed in great detail natural flood management systems that are being used in locations such as Wolverley.

**Superintendent Mark Colquhoun - West Mercia Police** spoke at length about the operational work completed by West Mercia Police in partnership with other agencies and the work of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and the Worcestershire Tactical co-ordination Group (TCG). At the height of response TCG meetings were being held up to 6 times a day between 5.30am and 11pm which demonstrated to Members the scale of the operation undertaken. Superintendent Colquhoun explained the responses delivered by agencies varied dependent on the warning levels provided by the Environmental Agency. He discussed the location of the bronze cell support hub and informed Members that several locations are identified in advance then the most suitable option chosen during each event. He stressed the value of having all key agencies in one location during the response.

Councillors L Whitehouse and A Coleman left the meeting at this point (6:50pm)

Superintendent Colquhoun gave details of which agencies took responsibility for which tasks and went into detail on the response implemented by the police including providing extra Officers to support public safety.

Councillor H E Dyke left the meeting at 7:01pm and rejoined at 7:50pm.

**Nathan Travis - Chief Fire Officer, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service (HWFRS)** gave specific detail as to the role of the Fire and Rescue Service during the floods which included crews conducting welfare checks, giving residents advice on how to prepare in case of evacuation, pumping out flooded properties and supporting residents with evacuating properties if needed. Over the period in question and over the 2 counties, HWFRS attended 182 flooding and water rescue incidents of which 127 involved flooded homes and over 50 were vehicles caught in flood water. A number of these incidents occurred across the Wyre Forest area. Officer Travis explained how Officers train for these situations to be able to utilise that training and their skills when needed in order to protect and support vulnerable communities.

**Tim Smith - Flooding & Partnerships Manager and Matthew Jeynes - Waste Network Manager, Worcestershire & Gloucestershire - Severn Trent** delivered a comprehensive presentation including details of Severn Trent's flood risk management roles and responsibilities, temporary barriers and pumping at Beales Corner and property flood resilience measures. They gave Members more detail about the workings of non-return valves and gave examples of situations that they may fail.

The Chairman thanked all of the agencies for giving their time to attend the meeting and expressed thanks on behalf of all Members to them and their colleagues, for the contribution they made to the flood efforts.

At 7:58pm the Committee agreed unanimously to suspend Council Procedure Rule (Standing Orders) 1.1 (iii) to allow the meeting to continue past 8pm. Councillor P Dyke left the meeting at this point.

**OS.19      Review of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) and Results of the Consultation Process**

The Committee considered a report from the Community Services Manager which outlined the results from the consultation process regarding the dog control PSPO and the restriction of alcohol consumption in Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn PSPOs and outlined the implementation process should the Public Space Protection Orders be agreed.

The Committee discussed the report in detail with particular debate around the number of dogs allowed to be walked at one time and the exception that may be considered for professional dog workers. The Community Services Manager and Senior Community and Environmental Protection Officer answered Members questions around PSPOs.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that:**

- 1.1      A Public Space Protection Order regarding dog controls, within the specified area, outlined in Appendix 4 of the report, is implemented.**
- 1.2      A Public Space Protection Order to restrict the consumption of alcohol within the specified area of Bewdley, as outlined in Appendix 4 of the report and the same boundary as is currently in place, is implemented.**
- 1.3      A Public Space Protection Order to restrict the consumption of alcohol within the specified area of Stourport-on-Severn, as outlined in Appendix 4 of the report, is implemented.**
- 1.4      The Public Space Protection Orders are reviewed 6 months after their implementation and results of the review are considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. As part of that 6 month review, to consider the comments of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in regards to professional dog walkers.**
- 1.5      Council Officers and Partners to give due consideration and implement appropriate actions regarding issues that have been raised through the consultation but are not suitable for inclusion in a PSPO.**

Councillor N J Desmond left the meeting at 9pm and returned at 9:09pm. Councillor H E Dyke left the meeting at this point.

**OS.20      Community Led Housing Policy Update**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Strategic Growth on the progress on Community Led Housing (CLH) and sought approval for the updated CLH policy.

The Committee discussed aspects of the report with particular focus on the definition of affordable housing.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that:**

**1.1 The updated Community Led Housing policy is approved.**

**OS.21 Property Flood Grants – Amendment to Capital Programme**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Strategic Growth which set out the process for the Government funded property flood grants to be distributed to affected residents and businesses. This included the requirement to amend the capital programme.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer (Housing & Water Management) answered Members questions on the Capital Programme.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that:**

**1.1 Cabinet recommend to Council that there is an amendment to the Capital programme by £650k to provide Property Flood Grants (to be recovered by funding from DEFRA) noting that the exact level of expenditure will be dependent of the number of eligible applicants received.**

**OS.22 Bromsgrove Street Car Park Developer Agreement**

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which set out the details of a proposed Agreement with the Council's former Glades Leisure Centre site development partner, Cordwell, in respect of the public car park at Bromsgrove Street and its usage in relation to the proposed cinema led leisure scheme planned for the former leisure centre site.

The Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place clarified points raised in the report for Members and answered questions on the proposal.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that:**

**1.1 The Council agrees to enter into the Agreement once a final version has been agreed between the Council and Peveril Securities Ltd.**

**OS.23 Treasury Management Review Panel**

Treasury Management Review Panel meeting dates and training sessions were circulated and the Chairman invited nominations for the current municipal year. Councillors M Rayner, N J Desmond, S Miah agreed to sit on the panel and membership would be offered out to Members who do not sit on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

**OS.24 Work Programme**

The Committee reviewed the work programme for the current municipal year.

**Agreed: The work programme be noted.**

**OS.25 Press Involvement**

The Chairman requested that an update on the consideration of the flooding motion from Council be flagged up with the Media Team as an item requiring publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:44pm.