

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD REMOTELY
THURSDAY, 1ST JULY 2021 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S E N Rook (Vice-Chairman), N J Desmond, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, S Griffiths, A L L'Huillier, S Miah, T L Onslow, C Rogers and D R Sheppard.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger, J F Byng, A Coleman, R H Coleman, P Harrison, N Martin and M Rayner.

OS.20 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S J Chambers.

OS.21 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor C Rogers was appointed as a substitute for Councillor S J Chambers.

OS.22 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.23 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.24 Update from Worcestershire County Council – Flooding Outcomes

The committee received a verbal update from Worcestershire County Council (WCC) on the flooding in January 2021.

Glenn Lucitt, Winter Service Manager, gave an update on the proposals from WCC in terms of the resurfacing works they are planning to undertake along and around Beales Corner, Bewdley.

Members were advised that the works will comprise of the removal of 110mm of the existing surface material which will be re-laid with a binder course, a final course of hot rolled asphalt and 20mm pre-coated chippings. He said the extent of the works will run across the bridge on Load Street, along Beales Corner and into the Stourport road, terminating in Westbourne Street and then up Kidderminster Road to the Pewterers Alley junction. The works are programmed to commence on 8 September for 5 days. He added that the works will be undertaken overnight to

minimise the disruption to road users and the general travelling public.

The chairman thanked the WCC representative for the update and for taking the time to attend the meeting.

Agreed: The update be noted.

OS.25 Climate Change Action Plan

The committee received a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer which provided an update on the Climate Change Action Plan for 2021-22.

The Principal Health and Sustainability Officer presented the report and outlined the key issues. Members were advised that the action plan focused on key areas were WFDC and partners can have the most impact in the district within current resources. She added that the four key themes for plan were warmer, healthier homes; building a low carbon economy; transport and infrastructure; and healthy and resilient communities.

In addition to the actions listed in the plan, the committee were advised that it was proposed to run some in-house carbon literacy training, which would be included in the cost cutting actions as a free on-line tool kit.

The committee fully scrutinised the report. Members acknowledged the work that was being undertaken to tackle climate change issues in Wyre Forest and fully supported the recommendation to cabinet.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that the Wyre Forest Climate Change Action Plan 2021-22, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report, is approved.

OS.26 Flood Mitigation Schemes

The committee considered a draft of a cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth on the external funding to be received from the national flood schemes funding for 3 flood mitigation schemes in Areley Kings in the Wyre Forest, Plack Brook in the Redditch borough and property level resilience measures in Bromsgrove and Redditch.

The Head of Strategic Growth presented the report and outlined the key issues. Members were reminded that the cabinet has delegated authority to make amendments to the capital programme where the council receives external grants and the resultant capital expenditure is fully funded. She added that as the host authority for the North Worcestershire Water Management shared service, Wyre Forest would receive the funding on behalf of the shared service which must be included in the council's capital programme.

The committee discussed the report. Members welcomed the funding which enabled the minor schemes to be undertaken for the benefit of local residents and businesses. The committee fully supported the recommendation to cabinet.

Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet to APPROVE that there is an amendment to

the Capital Programme of £115k for flood mitigation schemes funded from an external grant.

OS.27 Review of Kidderminster Town Centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

The committee received a draft of a Strong Leader report from the Chief Executive which sought approval to commence a review of the Kidderminster PSPO.

The Community Services Manager presented the report and outlined the key issues. Members were advised that as part of the statutory process, an evidence gathering exercise had been undertaken by the Community Safety Partnership Analyst at West Mercia Police. Following a review of the data provided, it was recommended that a review of the PSPO be undertaken.

Members were advised that this would be the second time the PSPO had been reviewed and assured members that all County, District, Town and Parish Councillors would be formally consulted as part of the process. The map of the current PSPO area was displayed electronically for the attention of members.

The committee discussed the report. A member suggested that it would be beneficial if as part of the consultation process, a pop-up session be held in the town centre to capture the views of town centre users. The committee unanimously supported the recommendation.

Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that there is a strong leader report that the Leader goes out to formally consult the public in respect of this matter. As part of the consultation process noting what is said in paragraph 5.3 of the report, there is some modest officer resource provided to allow a town centre pop-up session to be included as part of the consultation process with in the town centre.

OS.28 Treasury Management Review Panel

The committee received the dates for the review panel meetings and training sessions for the new municipal year. The chairman invited nominations from the committee. Councillors S Miah and N Desmond agreed to sit on the panel, and Councillor Miah was appointed as chairman. Membership for the panel would be offered to non-committee members via group leaders.

Agreed:

- **Councillor S Miah be appointed as chairman of the review panel.**
- **The Principal Committee and Member Services Officer to request nominations for membership of the panel from group leaders.**

OS.29 Work Programme

The Committee reviewed the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year. A member asked if an update from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity and Place on the role of the River Severn Partnership could be added to the work programme, the chairman agreed to consider the request.

OS.30 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.06pm.

The full meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website

<https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-committees-and-meetings/council-meetings/>