

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 2021 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S E N Rook (Vice-Chairman), S J Chambers, A Coleman, N J Desmond, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, A L L'Huillier, S Miah, C Rogers and D R Sheppard.

Observers

Councillors: N Martin and M Rayner.

OS.56 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor T L Onslow.

OS.57 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor C Rogers was a substitute for Councillor T L Onslow.

OS.58 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.59 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th October 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.60 How are we doing? Performance update

The committee considered a report from the HR & Organisational Development Manager which updated members on the performance of the Council for quarter 2 from 1 July to 30 September 2021.

The HR & Organisational Development Manager presented the report and appendices which included an exception report for all Wyre Forest Forward (WFF) actions and risk actions that were approaching their due date or were overdue; detailed reports of performance against the purposes of a 'safe, clean and green living environment' and 'supporting a successful local economy'; and a report on the Capital Projects.

The committee considered and fully scrutinised each page of the report and appendices in turn. The HR & Organisational Development Manager, Head of Community & Environment Services and Head of Strategic Growth, were able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions. A written response to

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any points where further clarification was sought would be circulated to members after the meeting.

Agreed: The progress in performance for quarter 2 be noted.

OS.61 Quarter 3 Capital Portfolio Fund Performance Report

The committee received a summary of the Capital Portfolio Fund (CPF) Performance report for quarter 3.

Representatives from the Council's Asset and Portfolio Fund Managers, Jones Valerio, presented members with the executive summary which set out the most relevant challenges and opportunities facing the CPF during the quarter, alongside the solutions being delivered to reduce risk and deliver opportunities. Members were advised that the report was a summary of the larger and more comprehensive quarterly fund report (QRF).

The representatives from Jones Valerio led members in detail through the executive summary. The committee fully scrutinised the report by way of a question and answer session with the representatives from Jones Valerio.

Agreed: The summary report be noted.

OS.62 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2021-22

The committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Resources which provided members with a mid-year review of the Council's treasury management policies, practices and activities in accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. The committee also considered the recommendations from the Treasury Management Review Panel (TMRP) from its meeting on 1 November 2021.

The Financial Services Manager led members through the report and outlined the key issues. She advised that this was the second of the 3 statutory reports which would be presented to the committee in the current municipal year. She said that the report had been fully scrutinised by members of the TMRP.

The Financial Services Manager was pleased to advise that there were no breaches to report and all the treasury management activities were in full compliance with the Council's approved low risk strategy.

Agreed: The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends to Council to approve this Treasury Management Mid-year Review and updated Prudential Indicators and Ratios.

OS.63 Work Programme

The committee reviewed the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year. The Chairman requested an interim report on the work of the Fireworks Review Panel for the December meeting and advised that as there was nothing on the work programme for January, the meeting would be cancelled.

Agreed: The work programme be noted.

OS.64 Press Involvement

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

OS.65 Business case for the use of Electric Vehicle Chargepoints on Council owned car parks

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth which outlined the final business case for Electric Vehicle Chargepoints (EVC) on Council owned car parks including detailed financial modelling undertaken by the Financial Services Manager.

The Head of Strategic Growth presented the report and outlined the key issues. Members were advised that as part of its work programme, the Green Advisory Panel had reviewed the case for EVC in the district. The Council had commissioned Cenex, a research and consultancy organisation that focuses on low emission transport and associated energy infrastructure, the review the scope for installation of EVC on its carparks.

OS.66 Exempt Information

Decision: Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of “Exempt Information” as defined in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

OS.67 Business case for the use of Electric Vehicle Chargepoints on Council owned car parks

The Committee discussed the report and confidential business case. The Head of Strategic Growth answered several questions from members on the report and appendices and gave further explanation and background information as required.

The Committee acknowledged the work of the Green Advisory Panel and the selection criteria used for identifying the car parks. Members agreed that before a final decision on the ownership model was made, the Lease option be explored as a potential delivery model.

Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Cabinet to agree the recommendations set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5 of the report, subject to Cabinet giving consideration to the Lease ownership model before a final decision on the ownership model is made.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.08pm.