

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 7 JULY 2022 (6PM)

Present:

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

Observers

Councillors: H E Dyke and F M Oborski MBE

Observed remotely: Councillors G W Ballinger, J F Byng and M Rayner.

OS.08 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor: V Caulfield.

OS.09 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor R H Coleman was a substitute for Councillor V Caulfield.

OS.10 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.11 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.12 Treasury Management Review Panel

The Committee received the dates for the review panel meetings and training sessions for the current municipal year. The Chairman invited nominations for the panel; Councillors S Miah, F Oborski MBE, N Desmond, B Dawes, R Coleman and P Young were put forward. Councillor S Miah was appointed as Chairman of the panel.

Further nominations for membership of the panel would be sought via Group Leaders.

Agreed:

- 1. Councillor S Miah was appointed as Chairman of the Treasury Management Review Panel for the current municipal year.**

2. The Principal Committee and Member Services Officer to request nominations for membership of the panel from Group Leaders.

OS.13 Work Programme

The Committee reviewed and noted the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

OS.14 Press Involvement

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

OS.15 UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Investment Plan 2022-25

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) which sought the Cabinet's agreement to approve the investment plan prior to its submission to Government.

The Head of NWEDR presented the report and outlined the key issues. Members were advised that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) prospectus highlighted three investment priorities for the fund: Community and place, Supporting local businesses and People and skills.

The Head of NWEDR said that the ReWyre Board, which is made up of private, public and voluntary sectors that focuses on the economic regeneration of the district, will act as the local partnership group for the UKSPF. The Board will advise on which projects should be included within the plan. The deadline for the submission of the plan is 1 August 2022.

OS.16 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.17 UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Investment Plan 2022-25 – Appendix 2 List of submitted projects.

The Committee fully scrutinised the report and appendices. The Committee took the opportunity to question the Head of NWEDR on several issues where further clarification was needed. Upon a show of hands, the Committee unanimously supported the recommendations.

Agreed: Recommendation to Cabinet: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the proposed recommendations as set out in the draft Cabinet report.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.44pm.