

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER**

**THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2022 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S E N Rook (Vice-Chairman), B Brookes, V Caulfield, A Coleman, R H Coleman, N J Desmond, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, I Hardiman, F M Oborski MBE and T L Onslow.

**Observers**

Councillors: G W Ballinger

Observed remotely: Councillors: J F Byng, M Rayner and L Whitehouse.

**OS.36 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: J Aston, S Miah, C Rogers, D Ross and D R Sheppard.

**OS.37 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor B Brookes was a substitute for Councillor C Rogers.  
Councillor A Coleman was a substitute for Councillor J Aston.  
Councillor R H Coleman was a substitute for Councillor D R Sheppard.  
Councillor I Hardiman was a substitute for Councillor D Ross.  
Councillor F M Oborski MBE was a substitute for Councillor S Miah.

**OS.38 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**OS.39 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**OS.40 Cost of Living Action Plan**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth that sought approval to the cost of living action plan 2022-23.

The Principal Health and Sustainability Officer presented the report and outlined the key issues.

## **Agenda Item No. 4**

The Committee fully scrutinised the report and action plan. Members supported the key actions that had been identified and welcomed the setting up of warm spaces across the district.

**Agreed: Recommendations to Cabinet: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee unanimously agreed to:**

**Note the report and action plan. The Committee endorsed the direction of travel and were keen for the work on raising awareness of the plan to continue to ensure people were able to get support when they needed it most. In relation to the wording of paragraph 3.4 of the report, the Committee agreed that it should have a sharper focus on the context of Wyre Forest.**

### **OS.41 Provision of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Consideration of call-in request**

The Committee received a briefing note from the Chief Executive and the Head of Strategic Growth which provided information on the points raised in the call-in request that had been signed by three Councillors who are not Cabinet members, and by the Chairman of the Committee. The Committee also received the original strong leader decision notice and report which provided members with relevant facts and information on the wider context and background to the decision.

Councillor N Desmond presented the call-in request. He said that due to the time that had lapsed since Council had given authority to progress, it was important that a full cost appraisal of all the delivery methods should be undertaken to ensure that the chosen option still offered the best value for money.

A robust discussion ensued. Several members spoke in favour of the call-in and welcomed the proposal for an up to date business plan which included detailed information on the leasing model. A number of members spoke against the call-in. Concerns were expressed that the Council was behind other councils across the county and elsewhere in delivering the EVC infrastructure on council owned car parks and further delays would not be helpful.

In addition to the points covered in the briefing note, the Chief Executive added that the Council was able to arrange finance from the PWLB at rates lower than those available to commercial operators due to our high credit rating. He said it was unlikely that the leasing model would represent best value based on this consideration alone.

A member proposed that the Committee support the direction of travel of the Cabinet. Upon a show of hands, the majority of the Committee voted in favour of the proposal.

**Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the Cabinet decision to proceed with procurement of electric vehicle charging points.**

### **OS.42 Work Programme**

The Committee reviewed and noted the work programme for the remainder of the

municipal year. The Chairman advised that if there were no items to consider in January, the meeting would be cancelled.

**OS.43 Press Involvement**

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.17pm.