

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

**2 MARCH 2023 (6PM)**

---

**Present:**

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

**Observers:**

Councillors: A Coleman, R H Coleman, H E Dyke, F M Oborski MBE and M Rayner.

Observed remotely: Councillors: B Brookes and I Hardiman.

**OS.51 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**OS.52 Appointment of Substitutes**

No substitutes were appointed.

**OS.53 Declarations of Interests by Members**

Councillor T Onslow declared, in respect of agenda item 9 – Localism including Bewdley Leisure Centre, that she is the Cabinet Member for Education for Worcestershire County Council and has an interest in recommendations to transfer Bewdley Leisure Centre to Bewdley High School Foundation.

Councillor M Hart declared, in respect of agenda item 9 – Localism including Bewdley Leisure Centre, that he is a member of Wolverley and Cookley Parish Council and is involved with the transfer title concerning Cookley allotments, as well as having an interest in the disposal of Brown Westhead Park.

Councillor M Hart also declared, in the interests of transparency, in respect of agenda item 9 – Localism including Bewdley Leisure Centre, that Worcestershire Football Association sub lease with Kidderminster Athletic Football Club and that his son plays football with KAFC, which is relevant for discussions concerning Habberley Playing Fields and Brown Westhead Park.

**OS.54 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**OS.55 Annual Review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2022/23**

The Community & Strategic Projects Manager delivered a presentation on the annual review of the North Worcestershire CSP (NWCSP) 2022/23, highlighting key areas for particular attention such as new and emerging initiatives and policy & planning and she gave a number of project updates. The Community & Strategic Projects Manager advised that a copy of the presentation would be sent out with the minutes of the meeting.

The Committee was given opportunity to raise questions, to which the Community & Strategic Projects Manager, the Head of Community & Environment Services and the Head of Strategic Growth provided responses. The Community & Strategic Projects Manager also agreed to send the Community Trigger guidance and application form for members to understand the process. Following further discussion, the Community & Strategic Projects Manager will consider road safety and life skills education for young people via the KDYT run Detached Youth work which is commissioned by the Community & Strategic Projects Manager and funded by the NWCSP's grant funding from the PCC.

**Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the draft Cabinet report.**

**OS.56 Draft Budget and Performance Monitoring Third Quarter 2022-23**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet Report from the Head of Resources and s151 Officer on the Council's financial and other performance at the end of Quarter 3 ending 31st December 2022. The report also presented the current projected outturn position for the 2022-23 financial year.

Councillor Ben Brookes (observing remotely) left the meeting at 6.50pm.

The Committee fully scrutinised the report and the Head of Resources, the Head of Strategic Growth and the Head of Community & Environment Services were able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions.

Councillor Shazu Miah left the meeting at 7.11pm

**Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the draft Cabinet report.**

**OS.57 Chaddesley Corbett Revised Neighbourhood Plan 2022 to 2036 – Referendum**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Strategic Growth to seek agreement that the Chaddesley Corbett Neighbourhood Plan should be made part

of the Development Plan for Wyre Forest District following the referendum which was held on Wednesday 8 February 2023.

The Senior Planning Policy Officer presented the report and outlined the key issues. The Committee discussed the report and took the opportunity to question the Head of Strategic Growth and the Senior Planning Policy Officer on the report.

Councillor Shazu Miah re-joined the meeting at 7.14pm

Councillor David Ross left the meeting at 7.14pm

Councillor David Ross re-joined the meeting at 7.15pm

**Agreed: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee noted the draft Cabinet report.**

#### **OS.58 Report on Local Enforcement Plan**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth that sought approval to adopt the Local Enforcement Plan.

The Senior Development Management Officer presented the report and outlined the key issues. The Committee discussed the report and took the opportunity to question the Head of Strategic Growth and the Senior Development Management Officer on the report.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee support the proposed recommendation at Item 2.1 of the report and that Cabinet approve the adoption of the Local Enforcement Plan on the basis that:**

- **Regular updates are provided to Members and Parish Councils.**
- **A clearer timeline is provided to complainants and incorporated in the Enforcement Process flow chart.**

The Chairman announced a 2-minute break in proceedings at 7.44pm.

#### **OS.59 Localism Including Bewdley Leisure Centre**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Chief Executive that sought agreement to various asset transfers and disposals as part of the localism agenda.

The Community and Environment Strategic Manager presented the report and outlined the key issues. The Committee fully scrutinised and discussed the report at length, with many reservations, and took the opportunity to question the Community and Environment Strategic Manager, the Head of Community and Environment Services and the Community and Strategic Projects Manager on the report.

**Agreed: Recommend to Cabinet that: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee invite Cabinet to seriously consider whether this report is even tabled at the**

**meeting on 21 March 2023, given there is still time to make adjustments. However, if the Leader decides to include this item on the Cabinet agenda, the Scrutiny Committee strongly recommend that Cabinet do not proceed with Items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.6 of the report.**

**OS.60 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 April, the meeting would be cancelled.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Committee members and the Officers for all their hard work and involvement over the past 4 years.

**OS.61 Press Involvement**

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.40pm.