

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

4 SEPTEMBER 2023 (6PM)

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**Present:**

Councillors: N Martin (Chairman), F M Oborski MBE (Vice-Chairman), J Aston, L Carroll, V Caulfield, G Connolly, N J Desmond, N Gale, P Harrison, D Little, C Rogers and D Russell.

**Observers**

Councillors: B Brookes, K Gale, I Hardiman, M J Hart, D Morehead, T L Onslow and D Ross.

Observed remotely: Councillors J F Byng and M Rayner.

**OS.19 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: H E Dyke and L Whitehouse.

**OS.20 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor J Aston was a substitute for Councillor H E Dyke.  
Councillor L Carroll was a substitute for Councillor L Whitehouse.

**OS.21 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**OS.22 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**OS.23 Budget and Performance Monitoring Q1 update**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Resources and s151 Officer to brief members on the Council's financial and other performance at the end of Quarter 1 ending 30 June 2023 and to present the current projected outturn position for the 2023-24 financial year.

The Committee fully scrutinised the report, and the Head of Resources and s151 Officer provided responses to queries raised by members. Clarification was sought regarding the Canal Tow Path works, which had been reported as

70% complete (on page 56 of the report) and it was confirmed that the works were fully complete.

**Recommendation: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the information in the report and recommend to Cabinet to NOTE:**

**1.1 The projected budget variations and comments within the report and appendices 1 to 5.**

**1.2 The performance against measures and actions as set out in the report and appendix 6.**

**OS. 24 Environmental Enforcement Policy**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Community and Strategic Projects Manager to agree the Environmental Enforcement Plan and to adopt the increases in penalty charges.

The Community and Strategic Projects Manager presented the report and outlined key issues. The Senior Community & Environmental Protection Officer then ran through the policy for members page by page. The Committee fully scrutinised the report and the policy and had the opportunity to ask questions, to which the Community and Strategic Projects Manager and the Senior Community & Environmental Protection Officer were able to provide verbal responses.

**Recommendation: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the information in the report, reviewed the Environmental Enforcement Policy and recommend to Cabinet to ADOPT:**

**1.1 the Environmental Enforcement Policy in Appendix One of the report.**

**1.2 the increases in penalty charges outlined in Table One at paragraph 5 of the report with effect from 13 September 2023.**

**OS.25 Localism Strategy**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Chief Executive to agree a revised Localism Strategy.

The Committee fully scrutinised the report and the Chief Executive was able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions. Members were in agreement to accept revisions as set out in the report.

**Recommendation: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the information in the report and recommend to Cabinet to ADOPT:**

**1.1 the Localism strategy in Appendix 1 of the report.**

**OS.26 Work Programme**

The published Work Programme 2023-24 was reviewed by the committee and the items for the October meeting, and the rest of the year, were noted.

**OS.27 Press Involvement**

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

There being no further business, meeting ended at 6.41pm.