

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

**THURSDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2023 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

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

**Observers**

Councillors: B Brookes, J F Byng, I Hardiman, M J Hart, D Morehead, D Ross and A Sutton.

**OS.42 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H E Dyke.

**OS.43 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor P Dyke was a substitute for Councillor H E Dyke.

**OS.44 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**OS.45 Minutes**

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

**OS.46 Wyre Forest Health Action Plan Update**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth, which provided members with an update on action to improve health and wellbeing and tackle health inequalities in Wyre Forest. It included the Wyre Forest Health Action Plan for 2024-25 for endorsement.

The Principal Health and Sustainability Officer presented the report, the Committee discussed the details and the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer and the Head of Strategic Growth provided responses to queries raised by members.

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

**1.1 APPROVE the Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2024-25, on the basis that further detailed performance measures are provided after 12 months to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Action Plan.**

Councillor Marcus Hart joined the meeting at 6.04pm.

Councillor David Ross joined the meeting at 6.08pm.

**OS.47 Climate Change Action Plan Update and Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Plan 2024 - 27**

The Committee received a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth to update them on action to tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions. It included the new Wyre Forest Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Plan for 2024 - 27 and year one action plan for endorsement.

The Principal Health and Sustainability Officer presented the report, the Committee thoroughly scrutinised it and were given the opportunity to ask questions to which the Head of Strategic Growth and Principal Health and Sustainability Officer were able to provide verbal responses.

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

- 2.1 CONSIDER the update of the Climate Change Action Plan 2022-23.**
- 2.2 APPROVE the new Wyre Forest Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Plan and accompanying action plan for delivery of this.**
- 2.3 To delegate to the Head of Strategic Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda, to make minor amendments and updates to the Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Plan 2024 – 2027,**
- 2.4 The Plan to be presented to and reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 12 months' time.**

**OS.48 Cost of Living Action Plan Update**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth, which provided Members with an update on action to tackle the cost-of-living crisis. It included the Wyre Forest Cost of Living action plan for 2024/25 for endorsement.

The Committee scrutinised the report, which was presented by the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer and members asked questions to which the Head of Strategic Growth and Principal Health and Sustainability Officer gave verbal responses.

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

- 2.1 NOTE the update on delivery of the Cost-of-Living Action Plan 2022-23.**
- 2.2 APPROVE the Cost-of-Living Action Plan 2024-25.**
- 2.3 update Overview and Scrutiny on progress after the next Cost of Living Summit.**

Councillor Ben Brookes left the meeting at 7.00pm

Councillor David Ross left the meeting at 7.03pm

**OS.49 Work Programme**

The published Work Programme 2023-24 for the rest of the municipal year was received by the Committee and the items for January were noted. A query was raised about whether the Capital Portfolio Strategy and performance should be reinstated on the Work Programme and the Chairman agreed to take the proposal on board.

**OS.50 Press Involvement**

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

There being no further business, meeting ended at 7.05pm.