

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 11 JANUARY 2024 (6PM)

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**Present:**

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

**Observers**

Councillors: L Carroll, D Morehead.

Observed remotely: Councillor M Rayner.

**OS.51 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: G Connolly, H E Dyke and N Gale.

**OS.52 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor R Drew was a substitute for Councillor N Gale.  
Councillor P Dyke was a substitute for Councillor H E Dyke.  
Councillor A Sutton was a substitute for Councillor G Connolly.

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

No declarations of interest were made.

**OS.54 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**OS.55 Wyre Forest District Council Local Development Scheme**

The Committee received a draft of a Cabinet Report from the Principal Planning Policy Officer that presented the updated Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) Local Development Scheme (LDS).

The Committee scrutinised the report and were given the opportunity to ask questions, to which the Head of Strategic Growth and the Principal Planning Policy Officer were able to provide verbal responses.

**Recommendation: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the**

**information in the report and recommend to Cabinet to:**

**AGREE:** the adoption of the revised Local Development Scheme.

**OS.56 Review of Statement of Community Involvement**

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet report from the Head of Strategic Growth to review the Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and whether to proceed with a consultation.

The Principal Planning Policy Officer presented the report and members were given the opportunity to ask questions on the report, and the proposed consultation, going through it page by page.

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

**AGREE** that a six-week public consultation on the revised draft Statement of Community Involvement be undertaken.

**OS.57 Work Programme**

The published Work Programme 2023-24 for the rest of the municipal year was reviewed by the committee, and the items for the February meeting were noted. Members were pleased to see that the Capital Portfolio Fund is to be covered and to hear that Jones Valerio would be bringing a presentation.

**OS.58 Press Involvement**

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

**OS.59 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.60 Acquisition of Property in Kidderminster**

The Committee considered a draft of a confidential Cabinet report from the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) which sought to obtain Cabinet’s agreement to proceed with purchase of a property in Kidderminster.

The Head of NWEDR presented the report and gave a comprehensive explanation of the proposal. The Committee fully scrutinised the report and were given the opportunity to ask questions, to which the Head of NWEDR and the Head of Resources and s151 Officer were able to give verbal responses and provide further clarification for members.

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

- 2.1 APPROVE** the acquisition of the freehold of the property as set out in the confidential report.
- 2.2 DELEGATE** to the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration, in agreement with both the Solicitor to the Council and the S151 Officer and in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Planning and the Green Agenda, completion of the purchase.
- 2.3 APPROVE** the appointment of a professional team through the SCAPE Consultancy Framework to deliver multi-disciplinary professional services to RIBA Stages 2-7, as set out in the confidential report.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.03pm.