

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 7 MARCH 2024 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: N Martin (Chairman), F M Oborski MBE (Vice-Chairman), V Caulfield, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, K Gale, N Gale, P Harrison, M McDonnell, C Rogers, D Russell and A Sutton.

Observers

Councillors: P Dyke, I Hardiman, D Morehead and D Ross.

OS.69 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: G Connolly and D Little.

OS.70 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor K Gale was a substitute for Councillor G Connolly.
Councillor A Sutton was a substitute for Councillor D Little.

OS.71 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OS.72 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.73 Budget and Performance Monitoring Q3 update

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 2023. The report also presented the current projected outturn position for the 2023-24 financial year.

The Head of Resources and s151 Officer and the Head of Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services presented the report, members were given the opportunity to ask questions on the report, going through it page by page. The Head of Resources and s151 Officer, the Head of Revenues, Benefits & Customer Services and the Head of Community & Environment Services were able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions and comments.

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.**

Councillor D Ross left the meeting at 6.48pm

OS.74 Update to the Housing Assistance Policy

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet Report from the Head of Strategic Growth to update the council's Housing Assistance Policy on the use of the Better Care Fund and other resources for the provision of disabled facilities grants (DFG) and other forms of financial assistance for property repair, adaptation and improvement and amendments in response to changes in typical costs and economic circumstances of applicants.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer presented the report, the Committee fully scrutinised it and were given the opportunity to ask questions. The Head of Strategic Growth and the Principal Environmental Health Officer provided verbal responses to members' questions and comments.

Councillor L Carroll left the meeting at 7.03pm

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

- 2.1 The proposed Wyre Forest District Council Housing Assistance Policy be adopted AND**
- 2.2 The split of funding between projects be delegated to the Head of Strategic Growth, in consultation with the s151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing.**

OS.75 Wyre Forest District Council Design, Amenity and Shopfronts Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet Report from the Head of Strategic Growth on the Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) Design, Amenity and Shopfronts Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), which was presented by the Planning Officer.

The Committee fully scrutinised the report and the Head of Strategic Growth was able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions and comments.

Councillor M McDonnell left the meeting at 7.07pm
Councillor L Carroll returned to the meeting at 7.08pm
Councillor M McDonnell returned to the meeting at 7.08pm

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

- 2.1 APPROVE the draft Design, Amenity and Shopfronts SPD AND**
- 2.2 AGREE to a 4 week consultation on the SPD to take place from the 10th April 2024 until 8th May 2024.**

OS.76 Wyre Forest District Council Housing Supplementary Planning Document

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet Report from the Head of Strategic Growth on the Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) following the recent consultation exercise.

The Senior Planning Policy Officer presented the report, which the Committee fully scrutinised. The Senior Planning Policy Officer was able to provide members with verbal responses to their questions and comments.

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

- 2.1 APPROVE the final Housing SPD for adoption AND**
- 2.2 NOTE the public consultation responses detailed in the WFDC Housing SPD Consultation statement.**

OS.77 Stourport No.1 and No.2 Draft Character Appraisals and Management Recommendations

The Committee considered a draft of a Cabinet Report from the Head of Strategic Growth on draft Conservation Character Appraisals and Management Recommendations for Stourport No.1 and Stourport No.2 Conservation Areas seeking agreement that they be consulted upon.

The Principal Planning Policy Officer presented the report to members and they were given the opportunity to ask questions, to which the Principal Planning Policy Officer was able to provide verbal responses.

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

- 2.1 APPROVE the two draft documents AND**

2.2 AGREE to a 4-week public consultation between 10 April and 8 May 2024.

OS.78 Work Programme

The Chair noted that there were no items scheduled for the April meeting and asked members if there was anything they wished to raise. Cllr H Dyke said she had 2 scoping forms to submit and apologised that she had not done so prior to the meeting. The Chair agreed to consider the forms and will advise members about the April meeting in due course.

OS.79 Press Involvement

There were no further items for scrutiny that might require publicity

There being no further business, meeting ended at 7.28pm