

**Open**

# **Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

## **Agenda**

**6pm**  
**Thursday, 9 May 2024**  
**Council Chamber**  
**Wyre Forest House**  
**Finepoint Way**  
**Kidderminster**



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee

### Members of Committee:

**Chairman: Councillor N Martin**  
**Vice-Chairman: Councillor F M Oborski MBE**

**Councillor V Caulfield**

**Councillor N J Desmond**

**Councillor N Gale**

**Councillor D Little**

**Councillor C Rogers**

**Councillor G Connolly**

**Councillor H E Dyke**

**Councillor P Harrison**

**Councillor M McDonnell**

**Councillor D Russell**

**Would Members please note that, to ensure continuity in scrutiny, substitutes should only be appointed for the Scrutiny Committee in exceptional circumstances.**

### Information for Members of the Public:

**Part I** of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

**Part II** of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

### Disclosure of Interests

**Members and co-opted Members of the Council are reminded that, in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and the statutory provisions of the Localism Act, they are required to consider in ADVANCE of each meeting whether they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), an other registrable interest (ORI) or a non-registrable interest (NRI) in relation to any matter on the agenda. If advice is needed, Members should contact the Monitoring Officer or other legal officer in good time before the meeting.**

If any Member or co-opted Member of the Council identifies a DPI or ORI which they have not already registered on the Council's register of interests or which requires updating, they should complete the disclosure form which can be obtained from Democratic Services at any time, copies of which will be available at the meeting for return to the Monitoring Officer.

Members and co-opted Members are required to disclose any DPIs and ORIs at the meeting.

Where the matter relates to a DPI they may not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not stay in the meeting unless granted a dispensation.

Where the matter relates to an ORI they may not vote on the matter unless granted an advance dispensation.

Where a Member or co-opted Member has an NRI which directly relates to their financial interest or wellbeing, or that of a relative or close associate, they must disclose the interest at the meeting, may not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not stay in the meeting unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter affects the NRI of a Member or co-opted Member, the Code of Conduct sets out the test which must be applied by the MEMBER to decide whether disclosure is required. Again please ensure you have spoken in ADVANCE to the relevant legal officer and determined whether it is appropriate to declare the NRI and leave.

### Co-opted Members

Scrutiny Committees may wish to appoint Co-Opted Members to sit on their committee in order to add value to the scrutiny process. To appoint a Co-Opted Member, a Committee must first agree to appoint either a specific person or to approach a relevant organisation to request that they put forward a suitable representative (e.g. the local Police Authority). Co-Optees are non voting by default but Committees can decide to appoint voting rights to a Co-Optee. The Co-Option of the Member will last no longer than the remainder of the municipal year.

Scrutiny Committees can at any meeting agree to terminate the Co-Option of a Co-Opted Member with immediate effect. Where an organisation is appointed to put forward a Co-Opted Member, they are able to send a substitute in exceptional circumstances, provided that they notify Democratic Services in advance. Co-Opted Members must sign up to the Members Code of Conduct before attending their first meeting, failure to sign will mean that they are unable to participate. This also applies to substitute Co-Opted Members, who will need to allow sufficient time before a meeting in order to sign the Code of Conduct.

The following will apply:

- i) The total number of voting co-opted members on any Scrutiny Committee will not exceed 25% at any one time.
- ii) The total number of voting Co-opted Members on any Review Panel will not be limited.
- iii) Those Co-opted Members with voting rights will exercise their rights in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in the constitution.

### **For Further information:**

**If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information, you should contact Louisa Bright, Principal Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email [louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)**

### **WEBCASTING NOTICE**

This meeting is being filmed\* for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website site ([www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk)).

At the start of the meeting the Chairman will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 1998. The footage recorded will be available to view on the Council's website for 6 months and shall be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

**By entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to be filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and or training purposes.**

If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured they should sit in the Stourport and Bewdley Room where they can still view the meeting.

If any attendee is under the age of 18 the written consent of his or her parent or guardian is required before access to the meeting room is permitted. Persons under 18 are welcome to view the meeting from the Stourport and Bewdley Room.

**If you have any queries regarding this, please speak with the Council's Legal Officer at the meeting.**

\* Unless there are no reports in the open session.

Wyre Forest District Council

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 9 May 2024

Council Chamber, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster

Part 1

Open to the press and public

<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Appointment of Substitute Members</b>  To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	<b>Declarations of Interests by Members</b>  In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), an other registrable interest (ORI) or a non-registrable interest (NRI) in relation to any matter on the agenda.  Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	<b>Minutes</b>  To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11 April 2024.	6
5.	<b>Inclusive play equipment in parks and play areas</b>  To consider a report from the Community and Environment Strategic Manager which provides an overview of inclusive play equipment in parks and play areas owned by WFDC and the future.	8
6.	<b>Work Programme</b>  To review the work programme for the 2024-2025 municipal year with regard to the Corporate Plan Priority, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.	11
7.	<b>Press Involvement</b>  To consider any future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.	

8.	<b>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</b>	
9.	<p><b>Exclusion of the Press and Public</b></p> <p>To consider passing the following resolution:</p> <p>“That 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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.</p>	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

10.	<b>To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.</b>	
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**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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

**THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 2024 (6PM)**

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**Present:**

Councillors: N Martin (Chairman), F M Oborski MBE (Vice-Chairman), L Carroll, G Connolly, N J Desmond, H E Dyke, N Gale, P Harrison, D Little and D Russell.

**Observers**

Councillors: B Brookes, P Dyke and I Hardiman.

Observed remotely: Councillor K Henderson

**OS.80 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M McDonnell.

**OS.81 Appointment of Substitutes**

Councillor L Carroll was a substitute for Councillor M McDonnell.

**OS.82 Declarations of Interests by Members**

No declarations of interest were made.

**OS.83 Minutes**

**Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**

**OS.84 Scrutiny Proposal**

The Committee considered a scrutiny proposal form submitted by a member of the Committee, Councillor H Dyke, regarding notifications to residents about changes to Garden Waste collections.

The Chairman advised that the form had been submitted with a view to setting up a review panel to investigate issues with communications sent out by WFDC, and information shown on the website, advising of changes to Garden Waste collections earlier in the year.

Councillor H Dyke presented the form, which set out in detail the scrutiny proposal. She explained that, whilst she was firm advocate of the service provided by the Depot to collect garden waste for residents (a paid for service), as a user of the

## Agenda Item No. 4

service herself she felt that when things go wrong, they need to be investigated and addressed. Councillor Dyke had found the notifications about changes to dates / collection days very confusing. She outlined the key issues and added that she had been contacted by several residents who had also been affected.

A discussion ensued and members agreed that the service itself is very valuable to residents and it is unlikely that the exercise to change the dates / collection days will be required in future years and that, if they do, lessons will be learned by officers involved with the communication issues which arose earlier this year.

**Agreed: The Committee DECIDED that it would not support a scrutiny exercise to review communications about revisions to Garden Waste collections.**

### OS.85 Press Involvement

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

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.19pm.

The meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website  
<https://wyreforestdc.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcasts>

# Overview & Scrutiny Committee

## Briefing Paper

Report of: Alison Bakr,  
Date: Thursday, 9 May 2024  
Open

## Inclusive play equipment in parks and play areas

### 1. Summary

1.1 This report provides an overview of inclusive play equipment in parks and play areas owned by WFDC and the future.

### 2. Background

2.1 In February 2024, Council agreed the Administration's final budget for 2024-25. This included the provision of a capital investment of £50k for accessible play equipment.

### 3. Current position

3.1 Local authorities are being urged by leading UK charities and industry bodies across the country to create accessible and inclusive child play space. According to the Sensory Trust inclusive play makes opportunities available to all children, regardless of physical ability and background. Inclusive play is about all children having the chance to play together.

3.2 WFDC currently has the following equipment that meets the criteria of inclusive play.

Equipment	Park
Splash pad	Brinton Park
Pirate Ship	Stourport Riverside
Roundabout	Heronswood Road Play Area, Spennells

### 4. Plans for 2024/25

#### 4.1 50k to be spent on inclusive play.

This is to be allocated to areas in Brinton Park and Stourport riverside,



However, all play areas are regularly reviewed, and as new equipment is purchased inclusive equipment is included in new purchases as a matter of course with the aim of having a mixed offer across all our play areas. This is an ongoing strategy for us and we hope to offer a mix of play equipment across all of our sites to enhance the experience for all of our users.

In 23/24 we added the following:

New inclusive swing seats introduced across the parks.

Multi seesaw with support seat for Springfield Park.

New urban park in Kidderminster town centre will have two inclusive play pieces of equipment.

Improved access routes to play equipment such as expanding wet pour surfaces.

**5. Options**

5.1 Overview and Scrutiny is invited to note the report.

**6. Consultation**

6.1 Cabinet Member for Operational Services, Councillor Ben Brookes.

**7. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies**

7.1 Wyre Forest District Council Corporate Plan 2023-27

**8. Implications**

8.1 Resources: Funding from capital budget and officer time.

8.2 Equalities: No direct implications from this report but the installation of inclusive play equipment has a positive impact on disabilities as a protected group.

8.3 Partnership working: No direct implications from this report.

8.4 Human Rights: No direct implications from this report.

8.5 E-Government: No direct implications from this report.

8.6 Transformation: No direct implications from this report.

**9. Equality Impact Needs Assessment**

9.1 As this is an update report an Equality Impact Needs Assessment is not required.

**10. Wards affected**

10.1 District wide

**Officer Contact Details:**

Alison Bakr  
Community and Environment Strategic Manager  
01562 732922

**Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
Work Programme 2024-2025**

**June 2024**

Annual review of the North Worcestershire Community Safety Partnership 2023/24  
Budget and Performance Monitoring Q4 update  
Empty Property Strategy  
Recommissioning of the Promoting Independent Living Service

**July 2024**

Nominations for Treasury Management Review Panel (Chair to be appointed)  
Design Amenity and Shop Fronts SPD  
Statement of Community Involvement  
Stourport No.1 & No.2 Conservation Area Character Appraisals

**September 2024**

Budget and Performance Monitoring Q1 update