

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 8 September 2004, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 7.20 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Compton (Chairman), Mrs Blacklock, Copping, Gill, Hatfield, Sandhar, Smith and Windybank.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Begg (Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services)

(Councillor Windybank substituted for Councillor Davies)

311. CRAIG ANDERSON

The Committee welcomed Craig Anderson Strategic Director for the Environment and wished him well for his new position with the Council

312. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute Number 321 - Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Scheme – Preferred Option of Consultation.

Councillors Mrs Compton declared a personal interest because she was a member of Warwickshire County Council.

313. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 July 2004 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

314. HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director for Community Resources and Stratford District Council which sought the view of the Committee on the future of the Health Improvement & Wellbeing Partnership between Warwick District Council and Stratford Upon Avon District Council.

In order to make the best use of available resources and achieve maximum impact on national, regional and local targets for Health Improvement, Warwick District Council and Stratford Upon Avon District Council formed a partnership to develop a comprehensive Health Improvement Partnership. The formal Service Level Agreement which formed the basis of the Partnership commenced on 1 April 2003 for a period of two years until 31 March 2005, subject to satisfactory outcomes from the monitoring and review process agreed by both partner agencies. Performance was monitored quarterly by Directors representing the partnership and a full annual review was scheduled to coincide with the budget process and review of the Health Action Plan. A copy of the completed action plan for 2003/04 forms were attached as an appendix to the report.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

RECOMMENDED that the Executive approve the continuation of this partnership on a permanent basis.

315. LICENSING ACT 2003 – DRAFT LICENSING POLICY STATEMENT

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the draft Licensing Policy Statement which was the subject of a consultation exercise.

Under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and guidance issued under it, the Council had to adopt a licensing policy statement by the 7 January 2005.

Before adopting the policy the Council had to carry out a consultation exercise on the policy. A copy of an explanatory letter, the policy and a pro-forma for comments had been sent to all existing licence holders, the Police, the Fire, the County Council's Trading Standards and Children's Group, Officers of the Council and other organisations and individuals who had requested it. It had also been published on the Council's website. Copies were circulated with the report.

Members were informed that the policy had been drafted in accordance with the provisions of the Act and guidance issued by the Government. The content of the policy was relatively prescriptive and had to comply with the terms of the Act and the guidance.

The consultation letter pointed out that the cumulative impact of licensed premises on the promotion of the licensing objectives was a proper matter for a licensing authority to consider in developing its licensing policy statement. The letter pointed out however, that applicants, responsible authorities and interested parties should know through the statement of licensing policy, whether the licensing authority already considered that a particular concentration of licensed premises in a particular part of its area was considered to be already causing a detrimental cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives. Consultees were asked to comment specifically on this aspect. Any decision to include an area in the final policy would need to be evidential based

The Crime and Disorder Partnership were being consulted on the policy and it was expected that they would comment specifically on the matter of cumulative impact, especially in Leamington Spa and would consider the question of evidence.

The policy could be amended at any time, subject to adequate consultation, and had to be reviewed every three years.

Members were asked whether they wished to comment on the draft policy statement as part of the consultation process

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

RESOLVED that

- (1) the contents of the draft licensing policy be noted; and
- (2) the principle of identifying, in the final policy statement, areas, especially in Leamington Spa, but eventually in other towns, as areas where the concentration of licensed premises is considered to be already causing a detrimental cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives, be supported, subject to the necessary evidence being available.

316. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF FLOOD ALLEVIATION MEASURERS

The Committee considered a report from Planning & Engineering seeking approval for the draft report to the Executive which included the recommendations from this Committee with regard to the future of flood alleviation methods, following the scrutiny of this matter.

RESOLVED that the report be approved and be submitted to the Executive in October 2004 for consideration.

317. COMMUNITY SAFETY – CREATING A SAFER ENVIRONMENT

The Committee considered a report from the three work groups who had undertaken the scrutiny of aspects of community safety and the recommendations from the review.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the summary of the findings of the work groups be noted; and
- (2) the recommendations of the work groups as set out in the report be compiled into a concluding report to be submitted to the Executive in October 2004.

318. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 1ST QUARTER RESULTS 2004/05

The Committee considered a report from Environmental Services Portfolio Holder on the performance management results for the first quarter of 2004/2005.

The regular and systematic reporting of performance results against targets, trended over time and compared with other authorities was a fundamental element of the Council's integrated performance management framework. The performance management framework in turn was a key tool in ensuring the Council stayed focussed on what mattered, to ensure it delivered its services efficiently and effectively.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

The report provided results for the period April to June 2004 for all the Corporate Strategy, Best Value and Service Area Plan indicators that had been identified as appropriate for quarterly reporting.

RECOMMENDED the content of the report be noted as the Committee were satisfied with the reasons provided by officers for the areas out of tolerance within their remit.

319. WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered their work programme for the ensuing year and made the following amendments:

Scrutiny of EMAS was removed as this was covered by other areas of work;
Rouncil Lane report was delayed until the October for further information;
Heritage Grants Review was brought forward to December;
Addition of the six month report on the Heritage Grants; and
Addition of a report on the caged bird exhibition to the March meeting

RESOLVED that Work Programme, as amended, be confirmed.

320. EXECUTIVE MEETING – MONDAY, 14 JUNE 2004

The Committee considered the minutes of the Executive meeting held on Monday, 28 July 2004 which came within its remit.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

321. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS)

The Committee considered the items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday, 15 September 2004 which came within its remit. As a result the following comments were made for forwarding to the Executive:-

Item no. 3 Local Public Service Agreement

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report

Item no. 4 Public Consultation on the New Community Plan – The Council's Response

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report. However they did comment that the consultation period was very short especially as most of the partners, such as Parish & Town Councils, were only just getting back into meetings following their August break. The Committee also supported the concern of CMT over the possible resource implications.

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Continued)

Item No. 15 Review of Kenilworth Conservation Areas

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, although the councillors from Kenilworth expressed some concern over the inclusion of Southbank Road, as they felt it did not have the special architectural merit required.

Item No. 16 Warwick Town Centre Traffic Management Scheme – Preferred Option Consultation

The Committee supported the recommendations from Council as they appreciated this was effectively a rubber stamping exercise of the Comments from this Council

Item No. 19 Performance Management – 1st Quarter Results 2004/2005

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report as they were satisfied with the reasons provided by officers for the areas out of tolerance within their remit.

(The meeting ended at 8.35 p.m.)