

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 April 2015 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Mrs Bromley, Ms Dean, Edwards, Mrs Grainger, Gill, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth and Wreford-Bush.

**Also Present:** Councillors Mrs Gallagher and Mobbs.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boad, Copping and Guest.

## 116. **Substitutes**

There were no substitutes.

## 117. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 118. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2015 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

## 119. **Comments from the Executive**

The Committee considered a report from Democratic Services which detailed the responses the Executive gave to the comments the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in March.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

## 120. **The Learning Academy**

The Committee received a verbal report on The Learning Academy from the Human Resources Manager. She explained that this was a partnership of Nuneaton, Rugby, Stratford, North Warwickshire, Warwickshire County, Coventry and Warwick District Councils; to form a learning consortium and profit from joint training initiatives to save costs on training. On average, two to three training events were arranged through this partnership and cited last year's "Art of Brilliance" course, which 30 officers from Warwick District Council attended at no cost to the Council.

(Councillor Edwards arrived close to the end of this item of discussion.)

## 121. **Member Children's Champions – End of Year Report**

The Committee considered a report from Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Gallagher; both the Council's appointed Children's Champions.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

The Executive agreed in September 2014 that two Member Children's Champions should be appointed to work with the Officer Children's Champion to ensure that the Council was delivering its children's safeguarding responsibilities. Overview and Scrutiny Committee also decided that it should have an annual end of year report from the Member Children's Champions as part of its scrutiny of the safeguarding function and this was the first of those reports.

Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Gallagher informed the Committee that whilst there had been a slow start to the role, they were now satisfied with progress and had caught up any lost time. They gave an example of how the promotion of the role had worked well, which was given in paragraph 8.7 of the report.

The aim was to raise awareness of the work amongst Members and Council officers. To this end, promotion of the work would appear on Council pay slips.

The Committee sought assurance from the Head of Health & Community Protection that his department was ensuring taxi drivers were being given advice on carrying young passengers and he assured the Members that advice was being given and information packs were provided to taxi drivers. He undertook to keep the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) informed of the work being done.

**Resolved** that

- (1) the end of year report be noted; and
- (2) a recommendation be made to the new Overview & Scrutiny Committee for further scrutiny activity of the Council's children's safeguarding activities to be undertaken.

### **122. End of Term Report**

The Committee considered an end of term report to be made to the Council on the work the Overview & Scrutiny Committee had undertaken during the year. This report also included the work that had been undertaken by the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

**Resolved** that it be recommended to Council that the list of matters considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee during the municipal year 2014/15, as detailed in appendix A to the report, be noted.

The report would be submitted to Council on 22 April 2015.

### **123. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan**

The Committee considered its work programme for 2015/16 and the latest published version of the Forward Plan.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) was asked to find out what would be included in the report on Forward Plan Reference 653 – 5 year Action Plan for Warwick’s Town Centre Management Group. Members wished to know if this would encompass part of Warwick’s Action Plan.

The Chairman also suggested that the new Overview & Scrutiny Committee might consider whether adaptation to homes to help those with disabilities might warrant a Task and Finish Group to improve the process.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **124. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Thursday 9 April 2015**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Thursday 9 April 2015.

#### Item number 7 – Smoking etc. Policy

The Committee noted the recommendation in the report.

#### Item number 8 – The way forward for scrutinising Health Issues at Warwick DC – Recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Committee noted the recommendation in the report.

#### Item number 3 – Revisions to the Constitution

Page 17 of the report – A(3):

The Committee was surprised that this clause did not state an indicative upper cost limit at which point consultation with the Portfolio Holder or the Leader would be required before going ahead.

Page 22 of the report – MO(8):

The Committee recommended that the wording was altered to read: “Appoint the membership of *any additional* Licensing & Regulatory Sub-Committees known as Licensing & Regulatory Panels”.

Page 23 of the report – MO(13):

The Committee recommended that the wording was altered to read: “*Initiate* reviews of the Members’ Allowances Scheme.”  
The words “in accordance with that Scheme” should be deleted.

#### Item number 4 – IT Provision for Councillors from May 2015

The Committee recommended that all recommendations in the report were removed and replaced with:

- 2.1 That the Executive awaits a detailed update on the results of the iPad trial, and, if necessary, extends the trial.
- 2.2 That the Executive agrees that further work be undertaken to improve the system prior to the submission of a report to the Executive at a later date.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

2.3 That the Executive is assured that adequate IT provision arrangements are in place for new councillors.

(Councillor Mobbs arrived at the meeting at the start of this item of business.)

Members of the Committee were given an update on Councillor Copping, who was seriously ill. The Committee wished him continued good progress in his recovery.

The Chairman thanked all the Members for their work during the year and she also thanked officers who had supported the Committee during the year.

(The meeting finished at 8.10 pm)