

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2015 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Mrs Bromley, Ms Dean, Gifford, Mrs Grainger, Gill, Guest, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson OBE, Weed and Wreford-Bush.

Also Present: Councillors Mrs Gallagher, Mobbs and Vincett. Councillor Boad arrived part-way through the meeting and observed only.

There were no apologies.

The Chairman informed Members that Councillor Mrs Bromley was recording the meeting during public session.

104. **Substitutes**

Councillor Gifford substituted for Councillor Boad and Councillor Weed substituted for Councillor Edwards.

105. **Declarations of Interest**

Minute number 112 - Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 11 March 2015 - Item number 8 - Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

Councillor Gill declared an interest because he was an ex-member of Khalsa Hockey Club.

Minute number 112 - Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 11 March 2015 - Item number 9 – Regeneration in Lillington

Councillor Wreford-Bush declared an interest because he was Ward Member for Lillington Crown.

Minute number 114 - Executive Agenda (Confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 11 March 2015 - Item number 22 – Strategic Opportunity Proposal

Councillor Mrs Bromley declared an interest because she was Ward Member for the site in question.

Councillor Mrs Falp declared an interest because a close relative was a shareholder in Leamington Brakes Football Club. She also took advice on whether she needed to declare an interest because she sat on the Planning Committee, but was informed by the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) that this was not necessary.

Councillor Gifford declared an interest because he was a County Councillor. He left the room when this item was discussed.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

Councillor Mrs Grainger declared an interest during the meeting as she was Governor to Warwick Schools and the Town's representative for the Thomas Oken Charity.

Councillor Guest declared an interest during the meeting and left the room when this item was discussed.

106. Minutes

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

107. 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 February.

Resolved that the report be noted.

108. The Way Forward for Scrutinising Health Issues at Warwick DC

In April 2014, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee set up a Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee to oversee scrutiny of health issues affecting Warwick District Council and to provide a report to Overview and Scrutiny in March 2015 on the way forward for health scrutiny. The Committee considered the recommendations from the Sub-Committee which sought approval from Overview & Scrutiny so that the recommendations could go forward to the next Council meeting for approval.

The report recommended, amongst other things, that a new health scrutiny committee be formed to handle pre-scrutiny of selected Council reports, documents and policies, where health and wellbeing was an issue; scrutiny of strategic health issues and health related consultations. The Labour Group requested that this be amended to stipulate scrutiny of health issues relating to the effects of the Local Plan. However, Overview & Scrutiny Members rejected this request because "scrutiny of strategic health issues" would cover this and the Committee felt that the terms of reference should not be prescriptive as the aim of the new Committee was to be flexible in what it would scrutinise, so long as it was a health and wellbeing matter that affected the District. Additionally, being prescriptive by itemising specific areas would eventually limit what could be discussed; for instance, at some point the Local Plan would no longer be in a state of flux and therefore there would be no need to scrutinise it. Councillor Illingworth, a member of the Sub-Committee, also pointed out that the Sub-Committee had already anticipated the need to scrutinise the Local Plan in respect of health issues by inviting the Planning Policy and Conservation Manager to a meeting to speak to Members about where health and wellbeing fitted into the Local Plan.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed that the report should be amended so that it recommended that one of the members of the new committee should always be the Councillor who represented the District on the County Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

A suggestion was also made that the Council's Children's Champions should either be encouraged to be members of the new committee, or be invited to attend its meetings.

Following discussions, a vote was taken at which Councillor Guest asked that it be minuted that he had voted against the recommendations in the report.

Resolved that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommend to Full Council that:

- (1) a committee be formed to handle pre-scrutiny of selected Council reports, documents and policies, where health and wellbeing is an issue, and will select these from information on the Forward Plan, before they reach final stage, and from liaison with the Corporate Management Team and the Senior Management Team. All members of the Council will also be able to suggest reports that require pre-scrutiny of health and wellbeing issues. The Committee will also deal with scrutinising strategic health issues and health related consultations;
- (2) this committee be named the Health Scrutiny Committee;
- (3) this committee should consist of **at least** 11 members and also substitute members (subject to change after the elections in May 2015);
- (4) the membership of the committee should be politically proportionate;
- (5) scrutiny of final reports for Executive will remain the responsibility of the two existing Scrutiny committees;
- (6) the Health Scrutiny Committee will be resourced from existing staff resources from within Committee Services and Health & Community Protection;
- (7) that the terms of reference for the committee be framed by the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, viz
 - a. promoting Health & Wellbeing in its community;
 - b. promoting Health & Wellbeing in its workforce; and
 - c. as a scrutiny body for the local activities and performance of NHS bodies located within the District of Warwick and in other areas of

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

Warwickshire, in liaison with the County Adult Health & Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

- (8) that in order to assist the committee in its scrutiny arrangements, the powers will include the capability of inviting individuals and organisations to present evidence on particular health issues. Every meeting agenda will make provision for the involvement of the Voluntary Sector, and of Public Health Warwickshire, representatives of which will be called upon to attend and to speak;
- (9) report authors would be required to take on-board any pre-scrutiny comments/recommendations in respect of their reports or give good reason why this is impractical;
- (10) the committee will run along the same procedure lines as the existing two Scrutiny committees where their functions coincide;
- (11) the Head of Service for Health & Community Protection will encourage officers to take their ideas to the Committee at an early stage through encouragement at senior management meetings;
- (12) meetings for the new committee be set in the Council's calendar every other month, with the option to call additional meetings if required for urgent business; and
- (13) the District Councillor who represents the Council on Warwickshire County Council's Adult Social Care & Health O & S Committee will serve as a member of the District Council's Health Scrutiny Committee.

109. Task & Finish Group – Sales & Lettings Board Notices

The Committee was asked to approve a scoping document for a Task & Finish Group to undertake further research and consultation to understand the views of stakeholders in relation to pursuing with the Secretary of State, a Regulation 7 Direction of the 2007 Town and Country Planning Act, to control the proliferation of Lettings and Sales Notice Boards in the District.

The Committee approved the scoping document and the Chairman informed the Committee that it was likely that the councillors who had co-operated on the scoping document would volunteer to serve on the Task & Finish Group.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

Resolved that the scoping document for a Task & Finish Group on the Impact of For Sale & Lettings Boards in Warwick District be approved.

110. Children's Champions – End of Year Report

This report was postponed until April 2015 to allow time for the parties involved to liaise.

111. 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.

The Chairman and Deputy Chief Executive (BH) explained that the Social Value in Procurement report had not been forthcoming due to the pressure of work in Finance. The Head of Finance had explained that the member of staff responsible for this area had recently attended a training course on the subject and it had revealed that social value was not simply a "procurement" issue and could involve other departments. A report was going to be drafted that would be presented to the Senior Management Team to discuss where Social Value should sit, and once agreed this would go to the Executive for approval. However, as an interim measure, there would be a module on Social Value as part of the induction training programme on procurement for new Members.

Councillor Mrs Bromley requested that the item for "Racing Club Warwick, St Mary's Lands – Scope Document" in the 'Post May 2015' table be amended because it was not awaiting revisions as these had been made.

Resolved that

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) the Children's Champions End of Year Report will be delivered in April 2015.

112. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 11 March 2015

The Committee considered the following non-confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 11 March 2015.

Item number 5 – Homelessness Strategy 2015 - 2017

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report, but requested that officers and the Portfolio Holder noted its view that during severe weather, the Council should aim to provide shelter to people who sleep rough after just one night, not three; and that these people be provided with both bed and breakfast. The Committee also asked that information be provided about the number of homeless who were ex-servicemen.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

Item number 6 - Establishing a Council Development Company for Warwick District

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(Councillor Vincett left the meeting at the end of this item.)

Item number 8 - Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report but wished the Executive to ensure that provision for hockey was given appropriate support. The Committee also noted that provision of sports facilities at school sites did not guarantee continuing use for the public; so this risk needed to be properly identified and managed.

(Councillor Boad arrived at the meeting part-way through this item as an observer only. Councillor Mrs Gallagher left the meeting at the end of this item.)

Item number 9 - Regeneration in Lillington

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(Councillor Mobbs left the meeting at the end of this item.)

Item number 10 - Housing Advisory Group

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee strongly supported the recommendations in the report.

Item number 16a - Proposed Creative Quarter

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 16b – Future Enhancement of Racing Club Warwick’s (RCW’s) Premises

The Chairman informed Members that this item had been withdrawn from the Executive agenda.

113. **Public and Press**

Resolved that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following two items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

The Chairman confirmed that Councillor Mrs Bromley was no longer recording the meeting.

114. Executive Agenda (Confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 11 March 2015

Item number 23 – SEV Task & Finish Group – Final Report

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommended to the Executive that recommendation 2.1 read "That a review of the Sex Establishment Policy is undertaken, paying due regard to the views of *the Task & Finish Group and Counsel*, and that officers submit a draft policy for Executive to consider, ahead of public consultation, in the Autumn of 2015."

Item number 22 – Strategic Opportunity Proposal

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

(Councillors Mrs Bromley and Mrs Falp abstained from voting. Councillors Gifford and Guest left the meeting at the start of this item and did not return.)

115. Minutes

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2015 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(The meeting finished at 8.15 pm)