

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 4 January 2017 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Boad (Chairman); Councillors Bromley, D'Arcy, Davison, Edgington, Gallagher, Miss Grainger, Margrave, Naimo and Parkins.

Also Present: Councillors Mrs Grainger and Phillips.

55. **Apologies and Substitutes**

- (a) Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs Redford; and
- (b) Councillor Gallagher substituted for Councillor Mrs Cain.

56. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

57. **Minutes**

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- (b) The minutes of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 22 November 2016 were noted.

58. **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 at the end of November 2016.

Resolved that the report be noted.

59. **Portfolio Holder Update – Health & Community Protection**

The Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, Councillor Grainger, gave an update on her portfolio area. In response to questions, she informed the Committee that:

- The Sustainability Officer's post will be made on-going to allow the officer to see the work through. No additional work was being progressed at the moment. The departmental re-structure would be discussed by the Employment Committee in March.
- It was unclear what standards the Government would set for air quality once this country left the EU, but whatever was decided by the Government, would be the standard that this Council would follow.
- Figures for convictions arising from CCTV evidence were not recorded. Councillor Grainger would look at what could be produced.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

- The rate of crime incidents filmed on CCTV increased and decreased and varied through the year depending on a host of circumstances such as the weather, the time of the year and whether a major event was taking place.
- The 10% underspend on community forums was across all areas.
- The data would be better presented over years rather than quarterly to smooth seasonal data, but there was no benefit benchmarking this district against others because this district had a different crime profile to other areas.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Grainger for attending the meeting to answer questions.

60. HQ Relocation Project – Committee Briefing Paper

The Committee considered a briefing paper from the HQ Relocation Project Manager giving an update on the position of the project. In response to questions, the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) informed the Committee that:

- £300,000 saving was a fundamental part of the strategy to relocate, and it was planned to achieve savings in 2018/19.
- The timetable for the move had not been altered, but it was under pressure.
- The Executive should have a clear picture on the budget position on 8 February.
- Slippage in time had already occurred. It had been hoped that the planning application would have been submitted by now. Pre-application discussions had started.
- It was planned to hold a Member Reference Group meeting in February.
- Information was still not available on whether 40% affordable housing was viable.
- Work had commenced on plans for alternatives once Covent Garden car park was closed.
- There were known constraints affecting the viability and design needs on the use of the Riverside House site such as a large part of the site being situated on a flood plain and two large sewers crossing the land, one of which would need to be relocated.
- He would speak to the design team about whether the standard charging points for electric cars were sufficient or if the faster “Tesla” type sockets should be installed. It was possible that if there was significant improvement in charging times using the “Tesla” type, then it might require a condition in the planning consent.

The Chairman thanked the Deputy Chief Executive for attending the meeting to answer questions.

61. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan

The Committee considered its work programme for 2017 and the Forward Plan.

Resolved that:

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

- (1) Forward Plan Reference 827 – Amended Anti-Social Behaviour be added to the Work Programme for the February meeting for pre-scrutiny work (direction of travel); and
- (2) the Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) ensures that the email on the position regarding recording and broadcasting of public meetings is sent out before the end of the week.

62. Task & Finish Group – HMOs Update

The Group planned to present its report to the Committee in April. The recommendations still needed more work before a survey was sent to tenants.

63. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Thursday 5 January 2017

The Committee considered the following non-confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Thursday 5 January 2017.

Item 4 – Pre-Application Charging Regime

The Committee felt that this was a good scheme and appeared to be well worth pursuing, provided that full cost recovery was achieved at a minimum.

Item 5 – The Rental Exchange Project

The Committee supported the scheme and looked forward to receiving information about the potential opportunity with Credit Union in the future.

(The meeting finished at 7.25 pm)