

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2012 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Gifford (Chairman); Councillors Boad, Brookes, Mrs Falp, Guest, Illingworth, Weber and Weed.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Coker, Hammon and Mobbs (Portfolio Holders)

Councillor Illingworth substituted for Councillor Davies and Councillor Weed substituted for Councillor Ms Dean.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Copping and Rhead.

33. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

34. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Item 5 – Tourism Strategy Update

The Economic Development and Regeneration Manager, Joe Baconnet, answered questions relating to his report due to go to the Executive the following day. The report updated the Executive on the progress made to date on the creation of a Destination Management Organisation, a key element of the adopted action plan and sought a commitment to co-fund its development with Stratford's Destination Steering Group.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee members were assured that lessons had been learnt from the financial problems faced by the now obsolete Shakespeare Country initiative and how a new DMO would be structured would be covered in a March Executive report. Members were also reassured that future resourcing issues would be considered as part of the Fit for the Future intervention within Development Services and that the proposed November Executive report would also resolve issues around funding of TICs.

Members were keen that the development of the joint Destination Management Organisation (DMO) between Warwick and Stratford was approved but recognised the need for a local perspective on marketing.

Members also wanted to ensure that the DMO discussions and progression of the Action Plan work would cover:

- the need to recognise both urban and rural areas for the promotion of tourism;
- the need to quantify the ongoing financial commitment;
- the need to ensure that all areas were covered;
- the delays in the process;

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

- what would happen once the current employment contract with the Economic Development and Regeneration Manager ended.

Councillor Hammon, the Portfolio Holder for Development Services and Councillor Mobbs, the Portfolio Holder for Finance commended the report recommendations to members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

It was agreed that the following would be reported to the Executive:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was in agreement with the recommendations. It felt that the DMO was the right solution; it felt that the views of the local Tourism Industry were of vital importance, that it must benefit all areas of the District but Members had concerns about the timings and wanted faster progress.

35. UPDATE ON TOURISM AND VISITOR ECONOMY

Following on from the previous discussion at the meeting, the Economic and Regeneration Manager, Joe Baconnet, gave an update on the work done to-date on the Tourism and Visitor Economy. He explained about the work being done to set up the DMO and outlined what work was being done to market the area abroad, the use of branding and the examination of DMOs currently in existence. He recognised that the process had been lengthy and acknowledged member concerns that it had taken too long but explained the need to ensure we got things right and gave an assurance that the process would now be driven forward as quickly as possible.

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee thanked him for the update.

36. UPDATE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Councillor Coker, the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services, explained the work covered by the Environmental Services teams, the aims of the Service Area Plan and how these would be delivered. He informed Members that the focus was on inspections and giving advice rather than prosecutions for failure to comply with environmental health standards. He explained how officers worked together and ensured that there was a cross-fertilisation of information.

Councillor Brookes gave his apologies and left the meeting.

Councillor Coker then invited and answered questions from members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Coker advised the Committee that in his opinion, health and well-being was an area that would benefit from more detailed scrutiny. Councillor Mrs Falp, a member of the Health Forum, agreed and reinforced this.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Coker and Richard Hall, the Head of Environmental Services for their time and presentation.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

37. DOG CONTROL ORDERS

The Head of Environmental Services, Richard Hall and the Divisional Environmental Health Officer, Grahame Helm, gave a presentation on a discussion document to kick-start the process to set up a Task and Finish Group for Dog Control Orders.

Following some discussion about the types of areas a Task and Finish Group might examine, it was decided to ask Councillors Mrs Blacklock and Mrs Falp to draw up a scoping document to be presented at the October meeting. The membership of the Task and Finish Group would be agreed at the October meeting after discussion of the scoping document.

Councillor Illingworth signalled his willingness to be part of the Task and Finish Group if requested to do so.

The Chairman thanked Richard Hall and Grahame Helm for attending.

38. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 August 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

39. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services which detailed the response the Executive had given to their comments regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in August 2012.

The report was produced to create a dialogue between the Executive and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it ensured that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were formally made aware of the Executive's responses.

The Committee noted that its recommendation for item 5, Markets Policy, had not been accepted by the Executive.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

40. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for September 2012 to December 2012.

It was noted that there had been some slippage on timescales for the Fetherston Court report, which would now go to the Executive into October. The Asset Management Plan had also slipped and was expected to go to the Executive in the New Year. Members remarked that the Local Plan had been omitted from the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

41. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services on the Committee's work programme from September 2012 to March 2013.

The Chairman explained that the final report for the Volunteering Task and Finish Group would be presented at the October meeting for Overview and Scrutiny.

The Safeguarding Children Action Plan would also be presented at the October meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

42. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Item 4 – New agreement with WCC regarding the operation of Barrack Street car park

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee discussed a report from the Head of Neighbourhood Services, Ian Coker, due to go to the Executive the following day. Officers had identified a potentially significant risk to the District Council concerning the way the existing lease between the District Council and the County Council was set out. The report sought approval for a new management agreement relating to the management of Barrack Street car park by the District Council at weekends and bank holidays which would remove the risk whilst still making the car park available to the public.

It was agreed that the following would be reported to the Executive:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee accepted the report but some Members suggested that security doors could be installed on the appropriate level of the car park to prevent access to the office block, and thus the car park could still be used and generate income. It was explained by the Deputy Chief Executive, Bill Hunt, at the meeting that this idea had been discussed in meetings between the two councils, but for various reasons WCC had been unwilling to accept the idea.

43. **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

**44. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) –
WEDNESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Item 7 – Integrated Waste, Grounds Maintenance and Building Cleaning
Contracts Re Let

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had slight concerns about the cheapest bid on Lot 4 – Building Cleaning, and asked that the Executive be assured that the much cheaper price could still deliver the service required.

(The meeting finished at 8.50 pm)