

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10 January 2012 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Gifford (Chair); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Brookes, Davies, Ms Dean, Ms De-Lara- Bond, Dhillon, Mrs Falp, Gill, Mrs Mellor, Weber, Weed and Wilkinson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Higgins.

72. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

73. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

74. **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 December.

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 was pleased to note that the Executive was giving reasons for its decisions when it did not accept recommendations given by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

75. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for January 2012 to April 2012.

With respect to the Economic Development Strategy (reference 361), which was due to be discussed at the Executive meeting on 14 March 2012, it was noted that the report would be discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February. Councillor Wilkinson volunteered to discuss it with officers ahead of the meeting to help the Committee with its deliberations in February.

Mr Bill Hunt, the Deputy Chief Executive, agreed to find out the progress on Chase Meadow Community Centre (reference 377 on the Executive Forward Plan).

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RESOLVED that the report be noted.

76. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services on the Committee's work programme from January 2012 to April 2012.

It was agreed that the Executive Development Strategy (reference 361 on the Executive Forward Plan) would be added to the Work Programme for the Committee's February meeting, and also that the action to establish a Task and Finish Group on Dog Control Orders should be moved from the April meeting to the September meeting to allow sufficient time to assess how the dog control orders had worked.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Executive Development Strategy be added to the Work Programme for February. Furthermore, that the action to establish a Task and Finish Group on Dog Control Orders move back from 17 April 2012 to 11 September 2012.

77. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY 2012

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 11 January 2012.

Item 4 – General Fund Revenue Base Estimates Revised 2011/12 and Original 2012/13

The report set out the latest projections for the General Fund revenue estimates in respect of 2011/12 and 2012/13, based on the then current levels of service, and previous decisions.

After consideration of the report and comments made, the Committee agreed that it was concerned about the failure of the Fit for the Future programme to meet its savings targets and the effect that may have. The Committee recommended that the "Fit for Future Scrutiny Group", consisting of Councillors Brookes, Boad and Ms Dean, meet to understand the Executive plans to ensure that the Fit for the Future programme delivered the agreed outcomes.

Item 9c – General Reports – Quality of Life Report

The report provided an assessment of how quality of life in Warwickshire and its districts compared with elsewhere and how it had changed over time.

The Committee agreed that there was excellent data in the report which drilled down into considerable detail, even showing variations within a ward.

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It was noted that on "Waste", Warwick District performed very well with the quantity of waste collected per head being the lowest in the County. The Committee commented that it would like more information on waste levels in all districts and wards.

On "Health", the level of teenage conceptions gave cause for some concern as Warwick was the only district in the County that had seen an increase between 2000 and 2009. The Committee raised the issue that conceptions going through to term would have an overall impact on all services and housing and questioned whether there were initiatives being carried out nationally that Warwick District was not aware of.

The Committee strongly supported the recommendations in the report and wanted them to be enacted.

Item 6 – HRA Draft Business Plan 2012-2042 and Self Financing

This item was withdrawn from the agenda in order for a revised report to be presented to the February meeting of the Executive.

Item 9b – General Reports – Newbold Comlyn Leisure Centre Water Flume Replacement Exception Report

The report set out the rationale for requesting an exception to the Code of Procurement Practice in order to enable the construction of a replacement water flume at Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre.

The Committee recommended that the Executive should satisfy itself that the price had been driven down as far as possible if the Council was going with a single supplier.

(The meeting finished at 7.06 pm)