

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3 January 2018 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Bromley, Mrs Cain, Davison, Miss Grainger, Gill, Naimo, Parkins, Mrs Redford and Shilton.

Also Present: Councillors Phillips and Thompson.

64. Apologies and Substitutes

- (a) There were no apologies for absence.
- (b) Councillor Gill substituted for Councillor Mrs Knight.

65. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

66. Minutes

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- (b) The minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 21 November 2017 were noted.

67. 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 on the 28 November 2017.

Resolved that the report be noted.

68. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Thursday 4 January 2018

The Committee considered the following items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Thursday 4 January 2018.

Item 3. Revisions to the Scheme of Delegation & Council Procedure Rules

The Committee supported the report with the following exceptions.

The Committee had concerns about the revision to include the need for the five objections to be from different addresses, this was because the Committee felt this was removing the rights of individuals. It was agreed the Development Manager and the Democratic Services Manager would look at this with the Portfolio Holder and Chairman of Planning Committee and bring an amendment to either Executive or Council ahead of the final decision.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

The Committee welcomed, after discussion and agreement with Officers, that the proposal to delegation DS(70) (iv) should remain within the scheme of delegation and therefore the current proposal to remove this should be withdrawn.

The Committee had concerns about delegation DS(70) (iii)(b) and the potential for this to imply that Parish/Town Councils may lose the right for their objection to bring the matter to Planning Committee. The Development Manager and the Democratic Services Manager would look at this with the Portfolio Holder and Chairman of Planning Committee and bring an amendment to either Executive or Council ahead of the final decision.

Item 4. Housing Allocations Policy review

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

The Committee welcomed the agreement from the Portfolio Holder to widen the criteria to address the situation where the property allocation quotas might mean it could be better to be in a lower priority band compared to higher bands e.g. regarding the balance between band 2's and band 3's demand and available properties. The Committee supported the following revision to the section on the imbalance of the housing register to remove this potential issue within paragraph 2 on Item 4/ page 12;

"It is proposed that this should be monitored and if the situation does not improve the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, should have delegated authority to re-balance the quotas to secure that a greater proportion of the out-of-balance properties would be advertised to the higher priority band to redress the balance.

The Committee welcomed that the 4th paragraph on Item 4, page 14 of the report would be amended to read "For applicants in this situation that cannot be considered under homelessness legislation....".

The Committee was mindful of the proposed delegation to the Head of Housing in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to make minor changes to the Policy (Item 4 Page 15). It noted that the intention to this would be to accommodate any amendments by statute, government guidance or to enable clarity on policy and its intentions. Therefore the Committee welcomed that the Portfolio Holder would incorporate details of these changes as part of his annual report to the Committee.

Item 6. Homelessness Initiatives and the New Legislation

The Committee noted the report and welcomed the work being undertaken in homelessness initiatives and strongly encouraged the continued dialogue between Housing Associations and this Council to help tackle this problem.

(As part of the discussion on the above Executive item the Committee received a presentation from Head of Housing, Housing Strategy & Development Manager and the Housing Portfolio Holder.)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

69. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan

Resolved that

- (1) the work programme be amended so that the Update on Enforcement Project group be brought to the February meeting of the Committee; and
- (2) the Task Finish Group for the Role of Warwick District Council Chairman proceeds with Councillors Ashford, Mrs Knight and Margrave.

70. Health & Community Protection – Portfolio Holder Update

The Committee considered a briefing note from Councillor Thompson, Portfolio Holder, Health & Community Protection, giving an update on his portfolio.

In response to questions from Members, Councillor Thompson explained that:

- the graphs for CCTV within the report were cumulative and not the number of cases per quarter;
- Uber operated within the District as Private Hire Vehicles. Under current legislation this could not be stopped because they were operating under a licence from another Local Authority. Any changes to this would be required within legislation and therefore any change would need to be raised with local MPs;
- the local Uber drivers/vehicles were operated under a licence from Wolverhampton City Council. Therefore this presented a problem for this Council as it had no control of these individuals within the District.
- he accepted the significant concerns about Uber and would raise this with MPs;
- Wolverhampton CC was proactive in undertaking inspections outside its area and had been investigating issues raised about drivers when operating outside its area;
- he understood the need for the Resilience Training for Councillors to be repeated and would liaise with his officers on this matter;
- the last Health Scrutiny considered a report on air quality and whilst this would not directly identify pollution from aircraft it would capture issues within the air quality overall; and
- Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities would be reported to the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 16 January 2018.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Thompson for answering the questions.

(The meeting finished at 8.29 pm)

Signature Redacted

CHAIR
6 February 2018