

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2 February 2010 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.45p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Gifford (Chair); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Coker, Copping, Davies, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Gill, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Mellor, Weed, White and Wilkinson.

75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item number 12 – Response to Climate Change Agenda.

Councillor Boad declared a personal and prejudicial interest because he was a Director and Trustee of Act on Energy and left the room whilst the item was considered.

Councillor White declared a personal interest because he was a volunteer for Action 21 who were mentioned in the report.

76. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2009, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

77. SCOPE DOCUMENT – DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

The Committee received a report from Councillor Alan Boad regarding the set up of a Task and Finish Group to try and establish whether it was possible to introduce a single community transport scheme, for both the elderly and residents with mobility problems, where normal public transport is unsuitable to meet their changing travel needs.

RESOLVED that the scope be approved, with the inclusion of the provision of an alternative transport system for able residents to use where no regular bus service operates.

78. RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE AGENDA

The Committee received a report from the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) which provided an overview of the work being undertaken by the Council in relation to the climate change agenda.

National policy increasingly reflected the environmental challenges that climate change would bring with measures to reduce CO₂, and other emissions, and considerations to the strategic approach to climate change adaptation.

For local authorities there had been a number of national Performance Indicators relating to climate change for which the Council had to provide data. A further set of national Performance Indicators were managed and monitored through the Warwickshire Local Area Agreement (LAA)

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The Council produced a baseline survey of its carbon footprint in 2007, which was used to measure progress in reducing its CO2 emissions. Since the baseline was produced, a number of projects had been undertaken to reduce CO2 emissions. Reports on the progress were submitted to Executive through the performance monitoring framework as one of the key performance indicators.

The Council had also taken other measures including:

- (1) Signing up to the Nottingham Declaration;
- (2) becoming members of the Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy Partnership;
- (3) having a dedicated Energy Manager post within Housing and Property Services,
- (4) ensuring energy efficiency is built into the Housing Investment Programme;
- (5) incorporating projects focused on energy reduction or alternative reduction of recourses into the Budget and Improvement programme; and
- (6) supporting the work of Action 21.

The Head of Environmental Services, who was the appointed “Champion” for the climate change agenda answered questions from the Committee.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) Councillor Gifford be nominated to speak with the leading officer, regarding the 10/10 commitment.

79. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Members’ Services on the response the Executive gave to the Committees’ comments on the reports submitted to the Executive on 2 December 2009.

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.

As part of the new scrutiny process, the Committee were no longer considering the whole of the Executive agenda. The Committee considered the items as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, and the response the Executive gave was also shown.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

80. FORWARD PLAN – THE EXECUTIVES WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for January 2010 to April 2010

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RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted and that the responsible officers for the South West Warwick – Community Centre Development and Green Space Strategy reports define their report dates as soon as practicable.

81. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the Committees' work programme for 2010.

At the Committees' meeting on 1 December 2009, it was agreed that the reports as listed in appendix 1 to the report, would be submitted to the meeting in February 2010.

RESOLVED that the Committees' work programme, be approved subject to the addition of a report be submitted to the Committee in June 2010 regarding the Economic Development Strategy.

82. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON- CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2009

Agenda Item Number 11 – Notices of Motion

The Committee were of the opinion that a formal approach to Stratford District Council should be made swiftly. They also requested that a report be submitted to the next full Council meeting on the possibilities of progress on the merger going ahead.

Agenda Item Number 12 – Maintenance of Trees

The Committee agreed recommendation 3 be amended to "investigate a phased programme for planting new trees." The Committee also agreed a new recommendation to be added to read '*The councils insurance liability in regard to the maintenance of trees is investigated and clarified.*'

Agenda Item Number 14 – Comprehensive Area Assessment

The Committee were concerned that the overall scoring from the CAA for Warwick District Council had fallen to level 2 – An organisation that meets only minimum requirements, Performs Adequately. The Committee asked that the Executive looked at ways of making improvements to the areas that had low scorings and took account of the overall score of the Council.

Agenda Item Number 15 – Consultation on the Core Strategy

The Committee understood and were aware of the need to go to consultation on the sights that had been identified in the Core Strategy. They requested that a definite date for the consultation to start be arranged by 5 February 2010, and for each member of the Council be notified of the start date. The Committee also suggested that the consultation should not include any preference that may have been expressed by the council as to the suitability of sights, including officers.

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83. 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 items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

84. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2009

Agenda Item Number 20 – Future of Newbold Comyn Golf Course

The Committee put forward the following recommendations to the Executive:

- (1) to look into the possibility of the Council funding only the land and buildings on the site within the first 2 years with the lease holder responsible for funding any equipment needed;
- (2) the Committee proposed that the period of the development agreement be enlarged from 18 months to 24 months so that the bulk of the investment (£250,000 by WDC and £ 210,000 by the lease holder) could be made before the lease is signed and the Council be satisfied that the major part of the investment had been made.
- (3) the lease to contain provisions that recognises the Councils improvements that it has made so that when the rent review takes place the Council would get the benefit of those improvements it has made and that the rent reviews should be 5 years from the occupation and the 50 years should start from the date of occupation although signed at a later date;
- (4) the golf working party to be actively involved in overseeing the implementation for the period of 3 years.
- (5) reports to be submitted to the Executive regarding the progress of the implementation, including how money is being spent.
- (6) the portfolio holder and Leader of the Council to be involved in the final decision and to be taken through the agreement formerly.
- (7) the Committee sought assurance that public access to the land would not change and that the course

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would still be affordable as for the general public i.e. as a public course.

85. TASK AND FINISH GROUP PROCEDURES

The Committee received a report from Members Services, which set out the proposed procedures to be followed for Task and Finish Groups.

The work that had been carried out by the Committee and Task and Finish Groups helped the Council to improve, in line with its priority to manage services openly, efficiently and effectively.

The procedure clarified why a Task and Finish Group would be established and the procedure to be followed during a scrutiny review. It also detailed the responsibilities of the Committee Services Officers, Councillors and other WDC officers.

RESOLVED that the Task and Finish Group Procedures be approved.

(The meeting ended at 9.50pm)