

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2012 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Boad (Chair); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Mrs Bromley, Ms Dean, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Mellor, Weber, Weed, Wilkinson and Wreford-Bush.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Mobbs (Portfolio Holder for Finance) and Councillor Vincett (Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services).

Councillor Weed substituted for Councillor Gill and Councillor Wreford-Bush substituted for Councillor Gifford.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brookes, Davies, Mrs Falp, Gifford and Gill.

87. **ACTING CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

As Councillor Gifford, the Committee Chairman, was unable to attend the meeting, the Committee appointed one of its members to chair the proceedings.

RESOLVED that Councillor Boad chair the meeting.

88. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute number 89, Item number 5 – Tourism & Visitor Economy

Councillors Dhillon, Mrs Higgins and Mrs Mellor declared a personal and prejudicial interest because they were Warwick Town Councillors, and left the room whilst the item was discussed.

Minute number 89, Item 7 – Disposal of Council owned land at Kingsway, Royal Leamington Spa

Councillor Brookes declared a personal interest because a person named in an appendix to the report was known to him.

89. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2012**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 14 March 2012.

Item 4 – C&CS Review – Team Structure, ICT Strategy and Channel Strategy

The Committee discussed the strategy document which covered all of the channels used by the Council's customers. The strategy set out the

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

principles for how the Council improved the way it delivered to its customers, making best use of available resources. This covered not only Information and Communications Technology, but also a proposed new structure for the Corporate and Community Services service area.

The Committee discussed how the changes would bring benefits to members of the public and alter the way the public accessed information or contacted the Council. The strategy document set out the principles but the changes proposed would be introduced incrementally.

The Committee noted the report.

Item 5 – Tourism & Visitor Economy

The report followed the approval of the strategic framework for tourism in November 2011 and updated members on the progress made since then, presenting a Tourism Strategy for the District, accompanying Action Plan and recommendations arising from the review of visitor information services.

The Committee welcomed the report and Joseph Baconnet, the Economic Development and Regeneration Manager, answered a number of the Committee's questions.

The Committee thanked Mr Baconnet for answering questions and supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 7 – Disposal of Council owned land at Kingsway, Royal Leamington Spa

The purpose of the report was to recommend the transfer of land occupied by the former Kingsway Community Centre for affordable housing and to draw members' attention to the representations made by six local residents and the recommendations in response to these.

Mr Jameel Malik, the Head of Housing and Property Services answered a number of the Committee's questions.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report, subject to a change to recommendation 2.4. The Committee recommended that an offer should be made to the community to give it the chance to have a community hub facility. The Committee recommended that the wording of 2.4 should be altered as follows:

"To agree to make an offer to the local community that 1 of the 11 dwellings be converted to a community hub facility. If the community do not wish to take up this offer, then the apartment will be used as affordable housing."

Councillor Vincett, the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services, informed the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that a circular could be sent to the community with the offer.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

Item 8 – Health and Wellbeing Improvements in Warwick West

The report asked the Executive to agree to officers commencing a procurement process to commission health and wellbeing activities for the residents of the District with particular focus on those who lived on the Forbes Estate.

The report asked that the £120,000 set-aside in the Council's St Mary's Lands/Forbes Estate Reserve was utilised to procure the delivery of services.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report but recommended that recommendation 2.1 should be amended to promote education, skills and training. The recommendation should be worded as follows:

"That Executive agrees to officers commencing an open and transparent procurement process to commission health and wellbeing activities, and activities to promote education, skills and training, for the residents of the District with particular focus on those who live on the Forbes Estate."

90. **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 paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

Minute No.	Para Nos.	Reason
91	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

91. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2012**

Item 11 – South West Warwick (Chase Meadow) Community Centre Development

The report updated members on the proposals for a community hall in South West Warwick (Chase Meadow).

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report but recommended that the Council's contribution should not come from the Capital Investment Reserve, but should come from the Urban/Rural Initiatives Fund.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

This would mean a change to the wording of recommendation 2.5 with "Capital Investment Reserve" being replaced with "Urban/Rural Initiatives Fund".

92. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2012 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

93. 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 February.

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 made no comments.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

94. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for March 2012 to June 2012.

It was noted that with respect to the Chapel Street Disposal (reference 376), scheduled for April 2012, the report was unlikely to be produced on time.

In respect of the Grounds Maintenance Contract re let (reference 387), scheduled for September 2012, the Deputy Chief Executive, Mr Bill Hunt, agreed to let the Committee members know whether the report was bring the proposed contract for approval or to report back on the outcome of the result of the tender. Committee members had questioned when the contract would be ready and if they would get the opportunity to scrutinise it before tendering commenced.

Members requested a verbal update on the Housing Strategy (reference A1) at the August meeting to give them the opportunity to influence the strategy.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

95. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee requested that a report on arrangements for prayers at Council meetings be provided for discussion at the April meeting.

The Committee requested that a verbal or written report be given on Housing Strategy at the August meeting.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

The Committee requested an update on Tourism and Visitor Economy with the Steering Group on Tourism to give feedback at the end of 2012.

The Committee decided that it would review the Fit for the Future Report going forward to Executive in April 2012 and choose various service area plans to scrutinise and schedule this onto the Work Programme.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(The meeting finished at 8.15 pm)