

# EXECUTIVE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 15 September 2003 in the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Crowther (Chair), Councillors Mrs Begg, Boad, Ms Flanagan, Gifford, Holland and Tamlin.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Caborn (Chair of the Audit and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

Councillor Mrs Compton (Chair of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

Councillor Mrs Falp (Chair of the Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

Councillor M F Coker (Conservative Group Observer)

and Councillor Hammon.

## 299. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

### Minute Number 304 – Security and Safety Improvements to St. Peter’s Car Park, Royal Leamington Spa

Prior to the consideration of this item, Councillor Gifford declared a personal and prejudicial interest because he lived opposite St Peter’s Car Park, Royal Leamington Spa and withdrew from the meeting.

### Minute Number 307 – Review of Childrens Swimming Admissions Policy

Councillor Tamlin declared a personal interest in this item because his son works as a lifeguard at St Nicholas Park Leisure Centre, Warwick.

## 300. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Executive held on the 21 July and 18 August 2003, having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 301. REVIEW OF WARWICK DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

A report from Planning and Engineering was submitted recommending to the Council the deposit draft Local Plan.

Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the Council were required to prepare a local plan for the district which must be in general conformity with the Structure Plan produced by Warwickshire County Council. The present local plan

was adopted in 1995 and prepared in accordance with the previous Structure Plan (Warwickshire Structure Plan Alterations 1989 - 2001). In August 2001, the County Council had adopted a new Structure Plan covering the period 1996 to 2011. The Council were now required to review its local plan in accordance with this new strategic guidance.

It should be noted that under legislation currently going through Parliament, local plans would be replaced by "local development documents", and it would be possible for the Council to delay the preparation of the local plan pending the outcome of this legislation. However, this was not considered an appropriate course of action for the reasons stated within the report.

The local plan provided the policy framework by which planning decisions were made, but further more provided an opportunity to provide a clear statement of the Council's vision for the development of the district. In this respect there were many important links between the local plan and other strategies to which the Council was committed and these were detailed in the report.

Preparing a local plan was a very resource intensive process, both in terms of staff time and costs. The work had been lengthy and included a number of substantial pieces of work including an urban capacity study, annual housing and employment land monitoring, input to the habitat biodiversity audit/SINC study, and a retail study of the district's town centres. A public consultation to the key issues facing the local plan was also undertaken in 2001. Details of all these areas of work were given in the introduction to the local plan, and more information including copies of the many relevant documents could be found on the Council's web site.

Work on the local plan had been undertaken primarily by the local plan team within Planning and Engineering. In this they had worked alongside colleagues from other departments and other agencies and organisations. In addition, at every stage all key matters had been discussed and agreed by the Members Development Plans Working Party.

In preparing the new plan, the Council had been guided by advice from the Government on its format. A new Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill was presently being considered by Parliament. It made provisions for local plans that were being prepared at the present time under current regulations and recommended a new format for how emerging local plans should be set out. This was a "local development framework friendly" format which importantly would ease the transition to a local development framework in due course.

The local plan comprised of a written statement and a proposals map. The proposal comprised five A1 plans, one for the whole district, one covering the rural areas of both Leamington Spa and Warwick, one for Kenilworth and one each for the town centres of Leamington Spa and Warwick. The copy of the written statement did not presently include the user guide and glossary. These would be included when the local plan was placed on deposit. The local plan also included a number of inset plans. . It should be noted that in addition to this, there would be other inset plans that would be included within the local plan when it were published. These relate to conservation areas and airport safeguard areas.

The previous local plan had shown significant growth with major allocations for new housing and/or employment at Heathcote Home Farm (Warwick Gates), South West Warwick, South Sydenham, Hatton Hospital and at Siskin Drive, Baginton. The new local plan would not face the same development pressures and was seeking to focus development within existing built up areas with a strong focus on the urban areas of the district. The following represent some of the key themes of the local plan and had been grouped under the Government's four main aims of sustainable development from the basis of the core strategy of the local plan - Maintaining high and stable levels of economic growth, effective protection of the environment, prudent use of natural resources, and social progress which recognise the needs of everyone. Local Authorities were required to carry out environmental appraisals of their development plans. The purpose of which was to ensure that the environmental impacts were taken into account during plan preparation and to help shape policies and ensure they secure the objectives of sustainable development. The sustainability appraisal was a detailed document and a full version of it would be produced when the local plan was placed on deposit for public comment as a background document. Subject to the draft local plan receiving the support of the Executive and then Council on the 29 October the subsequent timetable was set out in the report.

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the general principle of the plan and the timescale for approval of the plan as detailed in the report.

**RECOMMENDED** that the deposit draft Warwick District Local Plan

- (1) be approved as a basis for placing on deposit for public consultation;
- (2) be forwarded to Warwickshire County Council to consider whether it should be given a statement of general conformity; and
- (3) subsequent to receiving notification from the County Council be placed on deposit for public comment.

302. **ADDITIONAL ITEM - NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR ROGER COPPING**

(Although this item was not included in the agenda for the meeting, the Chair agreed that it should be discussed as a matter of urgency, in order to ensure that the consideration of the matter was not unnecessary delay).

The following notice of motion from Councillor Copping had been referred to the Executive by the Council on 3 September 2003:-

“Each year c240 citizens in our Warwick District Council area die prematurely because of tobacco related diseases. Smoking is a key issue in the Health Divide, and results in health inequalities & reduced life expectancy.

I propose that:

- 1) smoking and the sale of tobacco related products be banned in all Council premises; and

- 2) that all stakeholders receiving grants and concessionary Council Tax relief be required to submit a smoking policy which, at least restricts smoking, and ideally moves towards a no smoking policy.

Warwick District Council is a key player in promoting a healthier local community and narrowing health inequalities between disadvantaged groups and the rest of the population. We need to be more proactive in encouraging smoking cessation as part of our health commitment to the Community Plan. We must also endeavour to prevent passive smoking - related diseases from affecting our employees, non-smokers, pregnant mothers, babies and children.”

**RESOLVED** that a report be presented to the next meeting in response to the Notice of Motion from Councillor Copping.

309. **MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Audit and Resources, Economic, Environment and Social Overview and Scrutiny Committees held on the 12 and 13 August 2003 be noted.

310. **GENERAL REPORT**

(B) **FOOD SAFETY ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLAN - ANNUAL REPORT ON PERFORMANCE APRIL 2002 - MARCH 2003**

A report from Environmental Health was submitted seeking approval for the performance review of the Food Safety Enforcement Service.

The Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement stated that a performance review based on the service delivery plan should be carried out at least once a year and submitted for appropriate Member approval. The Food Safety Enforcement Service Plan was an element of the Council's Strategic Framework. Members, therefore, had a responsibility to monitor performance against the objectives of the plan.

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations of the report.

**RECOMMENDED** that the annual review of performance of the Food Safety Enforcement Service, as attached as an appendix, to the report be approved.

(The meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.)