

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 26 July 2016 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Boad (Chairman); Councillors Bromley, Mrs Cain, Edgington, Gill, Mrs Hill, Margrave, Naimo, Parkins and Mrs Redford.

Also Present: Councillor Phillips.

21. Apologies and Substitutes

- (a) An apology for absence was received from Councillor Davison.
- (b) Councillor Gill substituted for Councillor D'Arcy, and Councillor Mrs Hill substituted for Councillor Miss Grainger.

22. Declarations of Interest

Minute Number 24 - Executive Agenda Wednesday 27 July 2016 - Item number 8 – Review of Warwick District Members' Allowances Scheme

It was noted that Councillors did not need to make a declaration on this item because dispensation has been granted by Standards Committee on 2 June 2015, for all Councillors to discuss this matter.

23. Minutes

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Following on from minute number 11, 1 June 2016, the Deputy Chief Executive confirmed that the offer from Councillor Parkins to undertake the role of a second Children's Champion was acceptable to the Leader of the Council and Councillor Grainger. Councillor Parkins confirmed that she would be able to attend daytime meetings if given sufficient notice.

Resolved that Councillor Parkins undertakes the role of Children's Champion, working with Councillor Grainger, and that the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) will confirm her appointment.

- (b) The minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2016 were unavailable for approval and would be presented for approval at the next meeting.
- (c) The draft minutes of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 July 2016 were noted.

24. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 27 July 2016

The Committee considered the following non-confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 27 July 2016.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

Item number 8 – Review of Warwick District Members’ Allowances Scheme

The Committee noted the report.

25. Update on the performance of the South Warwickshire Housing Assessment Team (Aids and Adaptations Services)

The Committee considered a report from Housing & Property Services which provided an update on the performance of the South Warwickshire Housing Assessment Team (HAT).

The team was operating as part of a pilot project, in partnership with Stratford-on-Avon District Council and Warwickshire County Council, to deliver improved aids and adaptations services along with a range of home improvement agency services to enable residents in South Warwickshire to remain independent in their homes.

The report provided an update on the progress made by the Warwickshire Heads of Housing and the Warwickshire County Council Project Board on the proposal to set up a county wide shared service to deliver this service.

The report updated the Committee on the next steps for Warwick District Council to agree on a permanent service delivery model for aids and adaptations and home improvement services.

In response to questions, the Head of Housing & Property Services, the Project Manager (HAT), the Private Sector Housing Manager and the Portfolio Holder for Housing & Property Services, Councillor Phillips, informed the Committee that:

- Benchmarking the service against other similar Authorities had been difficult and officers acknowledged that the benchmarking done was not on like for like Authorities. The Head of Housing & Property Services agreed to feed back to the Project Board that results should be categorised by the different types of adaptations; and benchmarking should be against Authorities more aligned to Warwick District Council, i.e. two-tier and district councils.
- Figures of requests for adaptations were unavailable on the historic backlog that had been inherited.
- Figures were unavailable for how many applicants were turned down.
- It was clarified that on receipt of an enquiry, an assessment would be made by a case worker, and if required, this would be followed by a home visit to make an assessment, with discussions on how the service would be financed. Intricate cases would be passed to an occupational health therapist to determine the needs.
- Financing was either through a grant for those who qualified. Where the aids and adaptations had to be paid for by the individual, help would be provided in options for finding financing.
- To date no case had appeared where the solution provided was impractical. But if such a situation did arise, it was expected that the case worker would visit the resident within a week to sort out a solution.
- When a stair lift was no longer required and was under three years old, attempts were made to reuse it. After three years, the stair lift

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

was the customer's own property, but if the stair lift then became obsolete or could not be repaired, then help would be provided to replace it.

The Chairman thanked the officers and the Portfolio Holder for the report and answering the questions.

26. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan

The Committee considered its work programme for 2016/2017 and the Forward Plan.

Task & Finish Group – off-street parking charges review

The Committee Services Officer reported that all documentation for this Group would now be on the Council's Committee Management Information System so that Members could access information on-line.

The next meeting of the Group was scheduled on 1 August 2016.

Task & Finish Group – Houses in Multiple Occupation

Councillor Naimo reported that the Group had held its first meeting. It had been disappointed that it did not have a representative from Kenilworth. It was agreed that Councillor Mrs Cain would undertake this role unless she could find someone to take over who represented Kenilworth.

The next meeting was scheduled on 28 July 2016 at the Town Hall.

Councillor Naimo requested that all documentation for this Group should be loaded onto the Committee Management Information System.

Resolved that the report be noted.

(The meeting finished at 7.00 pm)