

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15 April 2014 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Blacklock (Chairman); Councillors Boad, Mrs Bromley, Copping, Ms Dean, Edwards, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Guest, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth and Kinson.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Coker (Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Protection), Councillor Hammon (Portfolio Holder for Development Services) and Councillor Mobbs (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Leader of the Council).

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Brookes.

## 127. **SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor Gill substituted for Councillor Weed.

## 128. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 132 – Executive Agenda (Confidential Items and Reports) – Wednesday 16 April 2014 – Item 11 – Racing Club Warwick & West Midlands Reserve & Cadets Association

Councillor Mrs Higgins declared an interest because the Racing Club was in her Ward.

Councillor Illingworth also declared an interest because he was a member of the West Midlands Reserve Forces & Cadets Association. He informed Members that he would not participate in either the debate or the vote.

Councillor Kinson declared an interest because the Racing Club was in his Ward.

## 129. **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE**

The Committee received an update from the Portfolio Holder for Development Services, Councillor Hammon.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Hammon explained that:

- Development Services was aiming to present a report to the next Executive meeting on proposals about turning disused offices into housing.
- The Section was mindful about the delays implementing customer service surveys and reviewing the validation checklist and had taken actions to remedy the situation. Councillor Hammon felt that constant review on customer satisfaction levels was ongoing as part of the process anyway.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

- In respect of the Jobs, Skills & Economy Delivery Plan, talks were taking place with Warwickshire College to help this work in the area. These talks included discussion of what job skills could be provided at the college. Additionally the Council was working with different industries to encourage apprenticeships, training and work experience.
- He pointed out that staff within Development Services had a lot of work, especially with the delivery of the Local Plan and the Gateway.
- The Council had no control over which inspectors were used for building services, but the Council had to operate to stricter criteria which increased costs.
- Councillor Hammon acknowledged that it would be useful for Members to have a timetable on the Jobs, Skills and Economy Delivery Plan and also the Leamington Spa Action Plan. The delivery of the Local Plan had caused a delay in this.
- He promised Members an email update on the ongoing talks with Warwickshire College but it was early days at present for any meaningful report.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Hammon for answering questions.

(Councillor Hammon left the meeting.)

### **130. HEALTH & COMMUNITY PROTECTION PORTFOLIO HOLDER UPDATE**

The Committee received an update from the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, Councillor Coker.

In response to questions from the Committee on his Portfolio, Councillor Coker explained that:

- The Council would try to attain the "Purple Flag" award, an accreditation scheme for the good work which was already being done to provide a safe and diverse night-time economy in our towns, when it felt it was possible to achieve it.
- Traditionally, reports of trouble had been phoned in so people had been working on a stand-by basis, which has required staffing to cover the phones. Technology was now available to allow people to make their complaints direct to CCTV. Complaints concerning noise issues were noted at the time and responded to at a later time. These would be dealt with by CCTV and savings were estimated to be in the region of £10,000.
- In future, every report would be considered to see if it had health implications.
- He was unable to comment whether any antisocial behaviour was caused by students.
- A list of emergency contact numbers would be sent out to Members.
- He would be reporting on progress in respect of Dog Control issues and the report produced by the Task and Finish Group in conjunction with Neighbourhood Services.
- He had met with the Police in respect of "boy racers" at St Nicholas Park and consideration was being given to installing posts at the park to stop the driving.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Coker for answering questions.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

(Councillors Edwards and Mobbs arrived at the meeting whilst this item was being discussed.)

### **131. PUBLIC & PRESS**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraph 3 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
132	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

The full minutes of Minute 132 would be contained within a confidential minute which would be considered for publication following the implementation of the relevant decisions. However, a summary of the decision was as follows:

### **132. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2014**

#### **Item 11 – Racing Club Warwick & West Midlands Reserve Force & Cadets**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee made a recommendation to the Executive to take into consideration at its meeting.

(Councillor Mobbs left the meeting.)

The meeting resumed public session.

### **133. HEALTH SCRUTINY AT WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL – RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE HEALTH SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP**

The Committee considered a report from the Health Scrutiny Working Party which had been tasked with recommending to the Committee the way health scrutiny should be dealt with at Warwick District Council.

The Chairman thanked the Working Party for the enormous amount of work it had covered.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (1) Health Scrutiny be dealt with by a sub-committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

- consisting of at least four members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (2) the membership of the sub-committee and delegated powers be determined by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the first meeting of the 2014/2015 municipal year;
- (3) the terms of reference of the sub-committee be framed by the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, viz
- promoting Health & Wellbeing in its community;
  - promoting Health & Wellbeing in its workforce; and
  - as a scrutiny body for the local activities and performance of NHS bodies located within the District of Warwick and in other areas of Warwickshire, in liaison with the County Adult Health & Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (4) in order to assist the sub-committee in its scrutiny arrangements, the powers will include the capability of inviting individuals and organisations to present evidence on particular health issues. Every meeting agenda will make provision for the involvement of the Voluntary Sector, and of Public Health Warwickshire, representatives of which will be called upon to attend and to speak;
- (5) the sub-committee be provided support from Committee Services for constitutional and administrative support; and
- (6) the way health scrutiny is handled by the sub-committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee be reviewed in March 2015 to see if it is working efficiently or if an alternative option should be considered with the formation of the newly elected Council in May 2015.

### **134. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2014**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 16 April 2014.

#### **Item 4 – Local Air Quality Management**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee felt it was an interesting report and supported the recommendations in the report. The Committee believed this report was exactly the type of topic that would be discussed by the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

(Councillor Coker left the meeting at the end of discussions on this item and Councillor Boad left during discussions on this item.)

### **135. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 11 March 2014 and 25 March 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to removing Councillor Gill from the list of Councillors present on 11 March.

(Councillor Gill left the meeting.)

### **136. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services which detailed the responses the Executive gave to the comments the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made regarding reports submitted to the Executive in March.

The Committee asked officers to ensure that reasons the Executive gave for not agreeing with any recommendations from the Committee were included in the report.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **137. FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for April 2014 to July 2014.

#### Forward Reference 551 – Sustainability Report

This report was expected to come forward soon following the recruitment of a Sustainability Officer.

#### May 2014

There would be more reports coming forward in May. It was expected that a report on the Chief Executive's delegated powers and the Potential alternative use of Hamilton Terrace would be delivered.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **138. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services on the Committee's work programme.

#### HARP

The report had been passed to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) for comments and now had to be checked by Legal Services. It was hoped to deliver a report in May.

#### Children's Champion

The Deputy Chief Executive (BH) had spoken with both Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Gallagher but there had been no further progress. It was agreed that a stock-take of all safeguarding that currently took place should be

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

made. The Deputy Chief Executive agreed to circulate the previous Section 11 audit to Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Gallagher.

The Deputy Chief Executive would examine the clarity of the role of a children's champion and a training programme for Members and staff.

### **Task & Finish Group – SEVs**

The Committee was informed that the public consultation was half way through and interim results from the website survey were given to Members in an email from Councillor Brookes. The final report would be presented to the Committee in June and Councillor Rhead had been invited to attend the meeting in May to give an update on the results of the survey.

## 139. **APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee was pleased to consider a report on the proposed changes to outside bodies considered by Group Leaders in consultation with the Deputy Monitoring Officer.

**RESOLVED** that the changes to be made to outside appointments as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and those to either cease immediately or in May 2015 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be noted.

(Councillors Edwards and Mrs Falp left the meeting.)

## 140. **PUBLIC & PRESS**

**RESOLVED** that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraph 3 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
141	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

## 141. **MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

(The meeting finished at 8.52 pm)