

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 February 2018 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Cain, Davison, Gill, Miss Grainger, Naimo, Parkins, Shilton, Mrs Redford and Weed.

**Also Present:** Councillors Phillips and Coker.

## 71. **Apologies and Substitutes**

- (a) None; and
- (b) Councillor Mrs Stevens substituted for Councillor Shilton; Councillor Gill substituted for Councillor Bromley; and Councillor Weed substituted for Councillor Mrs Knight.

## 72. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

## 73. **Minutes**

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2018 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- (b) The minutes of the meeting of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on 16 January 2018 were noted.

## 74. **Comments from the Executive**

The Committee considered a report from Democratic Services which detailed the responses the Executive gave to the comments the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made regarding the reports submitted to the Executive on the 4 January 2018.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

## 75. **HEART Project Progress Report**

The Committee received a report from Housing that informed the Committee of current operational and financial performance with the countywide Home Environment Assessment and Response Team (HEART) shared service.

In response to questions from the Committee it was explained that:

- it was confirmed that the South Housing Assessment Team would be fully staffed by the end of March 2018; and
- Under End to End Time Trend it was noted that there was a rise in the North, and this was due to extensions carried out that took a longer time period to complete.

The Chairman extended thanks on behalf of the Committee to the officers for their work and time in responding to questions.

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

**Resolved** that a further report be made to the Committee in twelve months.

### **76. Welfare Reforms**

The Committee considered a report from Finance which provided the Committee with an update on welfare reform.

The Benefits and Fraud Manager attended the meeting and responded to questions from the Committee.

The Benefits and Fraud Manager reported that due to the further delay in the roll out of Universal Credit until October 2018, housing benefits were to remain 'in-house', following which, it would move to the 'full' service introduction.

The Benefits and Fraud Manager also confirmed that there had been no delay in residents receiving benefits as officers had been briefed and were available to offer support when required, including any issues with landlords. Extra staffing was in place to deal with additional Discretionary Housing Payments.

The Committee noted that officers would report back to the Financial Inclusion Group in twelve months, and those Minutes to be circulated to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman extended thanks on behalf of the Committee to the officers for their work and time in responding to questions.

### **77. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 7 February 2018**

The Committee considered the following items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 7 February 2018.

#### Item 11 - Leisure Development Programme – Phase II (Kenilworth)

The Committee noted the recommendations in the report.

#### Item 8 - Recommendations for the Commissioning of Voluntary and Community Sector services for 2018-2021

The Committee noted the report but raised concerns regarding the reduction in allocation for the community forums.

#### Item 13 - 2018/19 ICT Services Digital Work Programme

The Committee noted the recommendations in the report.

#### Item 12 - Events Review Update

The Committee agreed to include the proposed report within its work plan.

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

### **78. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan**

The Committee considered its work programme for 2018 and the current Forward Plan.

**Resolved** that

- (1) the Work Programme be amended so that;
  - (a) a further report on the HEART project be brought in 12 months; and
  - (b) a report be brought to the Committee on the Events Review Action plan in the second and fourth quarters of 2018/19.
- (2) the forward plan be noted;
- (3) the contents of Appendix 3 – Update Enforcement Project Group, be noted; and
- (4) the contents of Appendix 4, progress on the Action Plan for recommendations made on HMOs, be noted.

### **79. Public and Press**

On the motion of the Chairman, it was

**Resolved** that, pursuant to Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the remaining business of the meeting in view of the fact that the nature of the proceedings will be such that, if the public were present, there would likely be disclosure to them of exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the said Act (as amended).

### **80. Executive Agenda (Confidential Items and Reports) – Wednesday 7 February 2018**

Urgent item - Beauchamp House – 77-79 Coten End

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the report including a revised wording to recommendation 2.1 so it read “in the region of” and not “exceeding”.

(The meeting finished at 9.00 pm)

CHAIR  
6 March 2018