

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25 May 2010 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Crowther, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Dhillon, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Higgins, Pratt, Weed and Wilkinson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Copping, Davies and Mrs Mellor.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Gifford was elected as the Chair of the Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2010 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the response the Executive gave to the Committees' comments on the reports submitted to the Executive on 14 April 2010.

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.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. FORWARD PLAN – THE EXECUTIVES WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for May to August 2010.

The Committee had concerns over the delay of the Core Strategy and asked officers to provide the Committee with further clarification regarding the possibility of the RSS being abolished and any implications to the timeline this could cause.

The Committee felt that in addition to reason codes the Forward Plan should record further comments regarding the delay in submitting the reports to allow members to understand the reasons for the slippage fully.

RESOLVED that:

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- (1) the Forward Plan be noted; and
- (2) officers to provide the Committee with further clarification regarding the RSS being abolished as soon as the implications to the Core Strategy became clear.

6. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the Committees' work programme for 2010/11.

At the Committees' meeting on 14 April 2010, it was agreed that the reports as listed in appendix one of the report would be submitted to the meeting in May 2010.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) a report regarding the structure of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and its work plan to be submitted to the Committee in September 2010 to enable members to determine how and when they wished to scrutinise the LSP further;
- (3) the report regarding the creation of a Volunteering Policy to be submitted to the Committee in October 2010;
- (4) the report regarding RSL's: Joint commissioning of affordable housing to be submitted to the Committee in September 2010;
- (5) the report regarding the contact information for Registered Social Landlords operating within the District be submitted to the Committee in June 2010; and
- (6) the changes to the membership of the Discretionary Travel Scheme Task and Finish Group were agreed to replace Councillor Coker with Councillor Mrs Higgins and Councillor Mrs Knight with Councillor Wilkinson.

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7. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON- CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2010**

Agenda Item 4 – Amendments to the Constitution

Some members of the Committee were unhappy with the gender specific term 'Chairman' being used within the Constitution and asked that the Executive consider this when making their recommendations to Council.

Agenda Item 9 – Response to Join Sub-Regional Transport Strategy and Implementation plan 2011-2026

The Committee felt that some important routes and means of transport had not been mentioned in the response including the implementation of walking routes, the planning of coherent cycle routes within the towns though not necessarily entirely by dedicated cycle paths to make them easier and more appealing for normal use, the use of rapid transport and linking a variety of transport routes from larger settlements in the district to the main Towns in particular the cycle route from Kenilworth to Leamington.

Agenda Item 10 – Response to Exceptional Hardship Scheme for Properties Affected by the Proposed Route of the High Speed Rail

The Committee felt that home owners should not incur any costs arising from the proposed route of the High Speed Rail. They agreed that the Exceptional Hardship Scheme should offer 100% compensation, and guarantee the market value of a property, with a real government backed guarantee of full market value when construction begins should help remove the current blight on properties. The Committee also felt that the scheme should be offered to all those who are affected in any way by the route, including local businesses and farms. It was also felt that there should be a scheme for those who could show hardship not just exceptional hardship.

8. **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 item by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

9. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 26 MAY 2010**

There were no items brought forward for discussion.

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10. COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

The Committee received a report from Members' Services that informed the Committee about the Government's Councillor Call for Action legislation (CCfA), which had come into force on 1 April 2009, as part of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Police and Justice Act 2006.

The Councillor Call for Action was one of a number of recent changes in legislation that would provide new powers for Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the guidance note on the Councillor Call for Action (Appendix 1) be adopted and included as an annex to the Constitution; and
- (3) the Committee recommends to the Council that Article 6 of the Constitution is amended to include reference to Councillor Call for Action and that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee procedure rules are amended to include CCFA within the order of business (as set out in the draft Constitution included in the Executive agenda for 25 May 2010).

(The meeting ended at 7.10pm)