

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28 September 2010 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.55p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Gifford (Chair) Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Copping, Crowther, Davies, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Dhillon, Gill, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Mellor, Weed and Wilkinson.

ALSO PRESENT:

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Scarrott

40. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Agenda Item Number 10 – Executive Agenda (Non – Confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 29 September 2010

Councillor Mrs Bromley declared a personal interest in Executive agenda item number 4, Fit for the Future, as she is a member of Friends of St Nicholas Park and a member of Racing club Warwick.

41. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 August 2010 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct.

42. **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 25 August 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.

43. **FORWARD PLAN – THE EXECUTIVES WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for September to December 2010.

The Committee were given clarification that the report on the Core Strategy would be submitted to the Executive in September 2010. The Committee then requested that the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Hammon, be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the report.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

44. 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 24 August 2010, it was agreed that the reports as listed in appendix one of the report would be submitted to the meeting in October 2010.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a date be included in the work plan for the report on Registered Social Landlords to be submitted to Committee.

45. CORE STRATEGY

At their meeting in August the Committee asked that the Portfolio Holder for Development attend the meeting to enable them to have a discussion regarding the Core strategy.

John Hammon, the Portfolio Holder for Development and Gary Stephens the Development Control Officer attended the meeting and answered questions from the Committee.

It was explained that some regional policies were no longer in place and that the needs of the area were going to be taken into consideration. There would also be some debates taking place with communities regarding the housing needs issues including options in terms of growth and what this could then deliver.

RESOLVED that the following comments be passed to the Executive:

- (1) there is a need to consult with all sections of the communities within Warwick District; and
- (2) a debate should be held between Councillors to decide on the best approach on engaging and consulting with communities.

46. OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS REPORT

The Committee received a report from Members' Services which detailed the appointments made by the Council to outside bodies and suggests an approach on how to consider the appropriateness of these appointments.

The report recommended that a Task and Finish Group should be set up to review all appointments of outside bodies and how the Council's representatives should report to Council on the activities of those bodies..

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

Following a discussion in June 2010 between Group Leaders it was agreed that appointments made by the Council needed to be reviewed ahead of the elections due to take place in May 2011.

At their meeting in June 2010 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested that a report be submitted regarding outside bodies.

RESOLVED that the Members Development Group be asked to consider outside appointments and make recommendations to Group Leaders.

47. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON- CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2010

Item 4 - Fit for the Future

The Committee asked that the report be changed so that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be included in under the 'Managing the Programme' section of the report. Some members felt that the Annual Governance Statement (2009/2010) Action Plan was not very clear and that it was not easy to identify the priorities or time scales for the portfolio holders.

(Councillor Mrs Mellor left after the conclusion of this item)

Item 5 – Regional and Sub-Regional Working

Some members of the Committee felt that there should be more member involvement in any regional and sub-regional structure.

Item 6 – Joint Working Committee with Stratford DC

The Committee were not happy with the recommendations in the report, and pointed out that a decision had already been made to allow the Council to make any decision and not a joint working party. They had concerns that it would be unconstitutional for Executive to agree with the recommendations following the decision already made at a previous meeting.

Item 7 – Oakley Woods

The Committee were concerned about the delays set out in the report and asked that in future all departments involved work closely together to stop mistakes or delays being made.

Item 10 – Free Swimming

The Committee were in favour of this scheme continuing and the possibility of charging £1 per session for under 16's. However they felt that the decision should be deferred until a full debate could take place at Council where there would be young people present who could also make comments. The Committee did not think a decision should be rushed into as there was a good amount of time before it had to be made.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

(The meeting finished at 9.20pm)