

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12 July 2011 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Gifford (Chair); Councillors Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Brookes, Copping, Davies, Ms Dean, Dhillon, Gill, Mrs Higgins, Weber and Wilkinson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Mellor.

(Councillor Copping substituted for Councillor Ms De-Lara-Bond).

11. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

12. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2011, were agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

13. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON- CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2011**

Item 4. Open Water Safety

The Committee were reassured of the partnership between the Council ROSPA using a sensible measured approach with the emphasis at assessing the high risks sites first and only installing Personal Rescue Equipment in a couple of appropriate sites.

Item 5. Article 4 Direction in Leamington Spa

The Committee noted the information circulated in the addendum to the report that was circulated at the meeting.

The Committee were assured that the Planning Policy Team would be considering both small and large HMOs to ensure that Council was in a position to respond to the long terms issues that HMO can cause. It was made clear that further policy changes could be required to ensure there was the correct housing balance in local communities. It was noted that any policies needed to be for both small and large HMOs.

Item 10. Match Funding for Health Initiatives

The Committee welcomed the money and the initiatives that were being planned by the Council as outlined by Councillor Copping at the meeting, but would have appreciated these details being circulated to all members.

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The Committee had some concerns about ensuring the money delivered benefits to the District and therefore recommended that the recommendation of the report be amended to add the following words at the end:

“subject to the agreed programme of work, in particular looking at drug and alcohol abuse, with measurable outcomes.”

14. TACKLING ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

The Committee considered a report and presentation from the Council's Community Safety Team that provided an analysis of anti-social behaviour (ASB) incidents in Warwick District; explained how ASB was being tackled; and outlined changes to recording criteria and legislation for ASB.

The report had been submitted to the Committee in order for it to complete its requirement for consideration of Crime and Disorder matters under the Crime and Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

The Community Safety Manager responded to questions from the Committee, as summarised below:

- funding for specific projects to tackle ASB in Kenilworth were funded through the Safer Neighbourhood Forum and Community Forum process, this included funding for police bicycles and opening of Kenilworth Youth Centre on a Friday night for the right age group;
- there had been problems regarding the responsibility for handling of noise nuisance and training had been provided for Warwickshire Police call handlers on this;
- there had been difficulties on Mental Health issues and engaging with designated individuals on the Social Services Adult Health team to provide a consistent approach on this subject area, this could be frustrating at times because WCC was the key partner for providing advice to the Council;
- Street drinkers were increasing at present, however, this was not uncommon for the time of year and while work was ongoing to tackle the issue there were increased challenges by the reduced role of Police Community Support Officers;
- There was a piece of work being undertaken to review the incident diaries/nuisance logs across the Council because three teams used different formats. It was hoped a common format could be produced and made accessible via the website to download.

The Committee were appreciative of the honesty from the Community Safety Manager and the Chair explained they would welcome a report back from the team about the problems they face when working with other organisations, to see if they can assist in the improvement of these relationships, or progress these to the County Council Overview & Scrutiny Board for consideration as a County wide matter.

The Chairman thanked the Community Safety Team for their attendance and good work on this subject area.

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RESOLVED that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a short report outlining issues which are stopping the team progressing/resolving problems be submitted to the Committee.

15. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services which detailed the responses the Executive gave to the Committees' comments on the reports submitted to the Executive on 8 June 2011.

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.

Some members of the comments felt that the comments that had been received from Executive would be more helpful if they were more detailed.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

16. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for July 2011 to October 2011.

The Deputy Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer explained the reasons for the delay in bringing the Green Space Strategy forward, and that officers were looking a revised plan. The Committee felt there was an opportunity for a cross party working group on this matter and also wanted to know the key milestones for the project.

The Committee also thought there was need for; an update on the play working party and how the member involvement was assisting in this process; and felt there was a need for them to be briefed on the progress, key milestones and the intended outcomes of the Economic Development Strategy as well as what role there would/could be for members in this project.

RESOLVED that

- (1) a short report be submitted to the September meeting of the Committee on the progress being made on the Green Space Strategy on the key milestones and potential for member engagement in the project;
- (2) a short report be brought to the Committee on the progress of the Play Working; and

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- (3) a short report be brought to the Committee outlining the progress, key milestones and the intended outcomes of the Economic Development Strategy as well as what role there would/could be for members in this project.

17. VOLUNTEERING POLICY SCOPING DOCUMENT

The Committee had confirmed the scoping document for this review at its meeting in June but had deferred the appointment of members at the last meeting to enable all non Executive members the opportunity to be part of this Group.

RESOLVED that the membership of the Group be confirmed as Councillors Mrs Bromley, Gifford, Mrs Knight, Mrs Tyrrell, Weber and Williams.

18. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the Committees' work programme for 2011.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the additional reports for the Committee be included within the work plan.

19. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2011

There were no confidential Executive items brought forward for discussion.

(The meeting finished at 7.40pm)