

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 June 2012 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Gifford (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Brookes, Copping, Dagg, Davies, Ms Dean, Edwards, Gill and Weed.

Councillor Dagg substituted for Councillor Rhead and Councillor Weed substituted for Councillor Weber.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Falp, Guest and Mrs Higgins.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services which detailed the response the Executive had given to their comments regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in May.

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.

The Executive had not responded to the suggestion made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to purchase the Head Office rather than retain the premises on a lease. Only a feasibility study had been in the report, and it was suggested that the Executive would not wish to constrain the options until the Study had been properly examined.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

14. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for June 2012 to September 2012.

The Committee requested that a report on the "Events Experiment" (Reference 408) be made in nine months time to check that it was on track, was producing income and to see the impact on the Town Centre.

The Committee decided that it would wish to set a date for a preview of the Housing Strategy in anticipation of the Housing Delivery Plan which was due to be delivered towards the end of the year.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

15. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

It was reported that the Volunteering Task and Finish Group final report would be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its July meeting with a view to it going to the Executive on 8 August.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

16. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 2012

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 20 June 2012.

Item 7 – Concessions and Income Generation

The report informed the Executive of the work that had been undertaken by the Income Maximisation Working Group and sought Executive approval for the Concessions Policy.

The Labour Group had requested that this item be discussed by Overview and Scrutiny because Members had some queries about the policy.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee wanted to know what the Executive was agreeing to; was it agreeing to concessions for people aged 60 plus, or people of pensionable age.

The Committee also hoped that the Income Maximising Working Group was going to continue and would meet soon to monitor progress, but if not, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee might want to have a report back.

Item 8 – Retention of Additional Right to Buy Receipts

The Liberal Democrat Group had requested that this item be discussed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee because of its importance to the future availability of low cost housing.

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

Item 11a – Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Application

The Liberal Democrat Group requested this item because it wanted to discuss how to achieve a wider take up of the scheme.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had concerns that this scheme was not being accessed by urban areas and smaller parish councils and wondered if the scheme could be publicised to reach these areas.

(The meeting finished at 6.58 pm)