

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Bromley, Mrs Cain, Davison, Mrs Knight, Naimo, Parkins, Mrs Redford, Mrs Stevens and Shilton.

**Also Present:** Councillors Butler and M-A Grainger.

## 81. Apologies and Substitutes

- (a) There were no apologies.
- (b) Councillor Mrs Stevens substituted for Councillor H. Grainger.

## 82. Declarations of Interest

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Councillor Naimo declared an interest because one of the community groups she supported (ARC) has been involved in the Green Space project.

Councillor Parkins declared an interest because she was a member of Friends of Midland Oak.

Councillors Mrs Falp and Shilton made a general declaration of interest for any item concerning Warwickshire County Council as they were both Members of this Authority.

## 83. Neighbourhood Services – Portfolio Holder Update

The Committee considered a briefing note from Councillor M-A Grainger, Portfolio Holder, Neighbourhood Services, giving an update on her portfolio.

In response to questions from Members, Councillor Grainger explained that:

- The recycling collection service would have caught up with collections by Friday, following the delays caused by heavy snow.
- Street cleaning in rural areas was done on a six-weekly cycle; the same as for urban areas. Weed spraying was done twice a year, but the chemicals that could be used for this was limited, and the effect could be reduced if it rained.
- 13 cases for fly-tipping had been referred to Rugby Council for prosecution. She was hopeful that this might limit re-offending, but it was crucial to provide the right evidence. She took on-board Members' suggestions to put information in newspapers.
- Three vacancies had been filled, and the Service Area expected to be fully operational by May.
- A review was being conducted to see how dog faeces collection and litter bin emptying could be improved, but more money was

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required. An issue had been spotted with residents using street bins for domestic waste.

- She would continue to pursue the issue caused by pigeons with the Council's legal team to find a satisfactory conclusion.
- Nationally, recycling rates had not increased. There was concern that when the current recycling contract ended, the money received would be a lot less. The quantities of paper recycling had reduced partly because a lot less people had paper newspapers, and from the effect of the national efforts to reduce packaging.
- Plastic recycling was going to be the next target with the new contract in 2021. Businesses would be encouraged to recycle more plastic and use less of it.
- Linen Street Car Park was not deteriorating at the rate first anticipated, which had bought a bit of time.
- More waste bins would be provided on streets and public areas when there was the money to do so in the budgets.

### **84. Shakespeare's England**

The Portfolio Holder, Business, introduced Helen Peters, Chief Executive Officer, Shakespeare's England. Ms Peters gave a short synopsis of the briefing note that had been provided with the agenda for the meeting. In response to questions, she and the Council's Strategic Economic Development Manager responded that:

- It was a condition of the Council's grant to Shakespeare's England that a report was provided periodically to Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- An Explorer Pass had been launched last September which gave access to 19 top attractions in the region. The passes could be purchased for one to three days.
- A "Stay, Play and Explore Warwickshire" pass had also been launched which cost £185 for a family of five and included an overnight stay and entry into three attractions.
- Shakespeare's England was part of several Discover Britain products, such as England's Waterways.
- Shakespeare's England was helping Birmingham Airport in its efforts on the "Gateway Project" to encourage people to fly into Birmingham rather than London airports.
- The efforts to encourage visitors to the District were not being diluted as Shakespeare's England expanded its area. Its overall remit was to act as the tourist board for south Warwickshire.
- Social Media visibility needed improvement and work was being concentrated on this.

Members thanked Ms Peters for her information and requested that information be provided on how Shakespeare's England was performing against the Council's KPI's.

### **85. Business – Portfolio Holder Update**

The Committee considered a briefing note from Councillor Butler, Portfolio Holder, Business, giving an update on his portfolio.

In response to questions from Members, Councillor Butler explained that:

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- Costs could be recouped for any damage at events in Council parks by taking out a bond and claiming against it if necessary. This would allow ending charges for the use of council parks for events.
- He was aware that for the Kenilworth Carnival to continue, an influx of money might be required. He would be attending a meeting on the following day to discuss the difficulties.
- As a result of the difficulty the Council experienced recruiting to key posts, it was important to retain existing staff.
- The work on the Creative Quarter was a 10 year partnership, split into two phases. The first phase would end in November 2019 at which point, the Council could walk away from the project if things were not going in the direction the Council wanted.
- The 2022 Commonwealth Games would allow Leamington Spa to be showcased to visitors.

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

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

#### Item 6 – Review of Green Space Strategy & Approval of Revised Green Space Action Plan

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report, and detailed additional information it would like in future reports.

#### Item 9 – Vision & Strategy for Leamington Town Centre

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

#### Item 10 – Residential Design Guide – Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) & Parking Standards SPD

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report.

#### Item 11 – Local Development Scheme (LDS)

The Committee noted the recommendations but expressed concern that Gipsies and Travellers, sustainable buildings and health impacts were not being addressed in the next three years, although the Committee recognised the limitations due to staffing issues.

#### Item 4 – Local Code of Corporate Governance

The Committee asked Councillor Naimo to speak on this at Executive.

(Due to a clash of schedules between the two Scrutiny Committees meeting that evening, and the importance of the report author's presence at Finance & Audit Scrutiny Committee, the report author was unable to attend Overview & Scrutiny Committee before its meeting ended.)

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### **87. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to Councillor Mrs Stevens being added to the list of those present at the meeting, and Councillor Shilton being removed from the list of those present.

### **88. 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 7 February 2018.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

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

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

The Committee was informed that work on the Task & Finish Group – Role of Warwick District Council Chairman would start shortly. A staffing issue within Committee Services had caused the delay to the project commencement.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

(The meeting finished at 9.10 pm)

CHAIR  
4 April 2018