

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2013 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Blacklock (Chairman); Councillors Boad, Mrs Bromley, Copping, Ms Dean, Edwards, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Guest, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth and Mrs Knight.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Cross (Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services) and Shilton (Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brookes and Kinson.

47. **SUBSTITUTES**

There were no substitutes.

48. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

49. **UPDATE FROM THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

In response to questions about his Portfolio Area, Councillor Shilton provided the following responses:

- the service area was investigating ways to improve the problem caused by bins in conservation areas but he was unable to give a timescale on when this would be completed;
- he pointed out that a £1.1 million saving had been achieved and a more detailed response could be provided by the Contracts Services Manager when questioned about the value for money being achieved on plastic recycling where the income received was far less than the costs of providing the service. Members were aware that recycling meant less landfill waste;
- he would provide all councillors with information about planned tree works by the County Council;
- in respect of the work being undertaken by the Play Areas Working Party, it was hoped that more expenditure would be made on refurbishing play areas and work would be undertaken to see if there were areas of green space that were not required that could be used for other projects;
- he pointed out that some people would challenge tickets but that in respect of the numbers involved, the Council compared favourably against national figures when the issue of the number of parking enforcement tickets that were being challenged was raised and

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whether this was as a result of the Council setting targets too high;
and

- the Council would be unable to decide its course of action in respect of on-street parking until a report giving the figures involved had been released by the County Council. It was hoped that more information would be forthcoming the following week.

(Councillor Edwards arrived at the meeting during discussion of this item.)

50. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to an amendment to show that Councillor Mrs Higgins was present at the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Deputy Chief Executive (BH) agreed that he would contact the officer concerned to call a meeting of the Children's Champions because both Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Gallagher were concerned that the previous meeting had been cancelled with no date set for when it would be reconvened.

The Deputy Chief Executive (BH) agreed to chase progress on the commitments given at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 July 2013 in respect of City Deal and LEP. He pointed out that a report on City Deal was forthcoming and that the LEP Board meeting minutes had been circulated.

51. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services which detailed the responses the Executive gave to the comments the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in September.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

52. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for October 2013 to January 2014.

In respect of Forward Plan reference 547 – A refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy and Updated Fit for the Future Programme, the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) advised that if it was possible to release any information ahead of the report, it would be done. He pointed out that this might not be possible because there was an issue of timing over the number of interlinked reports this would involve, and cited various examples such as the Riverside House relocation, budget review, asset review, two reports for City Deal and also the Local Plan update specifically bringing forward aspects involving villages.

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The Deputy Chief Executive (BH) agreed to find out the date for Forward Plan reference 467 – Local Enforcement Plan.

Forward Plan reference 529 – Review of Security of Open Spaces within Warwick District Council – Members asked whether this would involve consultation with residents. Councillor Mrs Bromley informed Members that she would ask Friends of Parks to contact Councillor Shilton.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

53. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services on the Committee's work programme.

The Task and Finish Group – Staff Volunteering had held its first meeting and therefore would be providing regular progress reports at meetings.

The Committee decided that the "Review of the Volunteering Policy" report should be delivered in January 2014. There was no advantage to link it with Staff Volunteering.

The response rate so far for reports on Outside Bodies had been minimal. A reminder would be issued mid-October. Discussion of any reports received would be at the November meeting of Overview and Scrutiny, when Members could decide if they wished to scrutinise any of the reports in greater depth at a future meeting.

The Deputy Chief Executive (BH) pointed out that he was the lead officer for the Asset Review item which was now going forward to The Executive in November. It was reported that the Fit for the Future report had also been delayed until November.

Councillor Mrs Knight reported that a meeting had been held of the Task and Finish Group for Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs) at which a simple questionnaire had been agreed to go out for consultation, the deadline for which was 10 October. Once finalized, the questionnaire would be ready for release to the public. Councillor Barrott would be checking progress.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

54. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2013

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 9 October 2013.

Item 5 – Warwick District Sports & Leisure Vision and Principles

The Committee considered a report from Cultural Services that built on the work which had been undertaken over the last 18 months to inform the future plans for sports and leisure provision in Warwick District. The report referenced several studies and assessments which could be drawn upon to

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provide evidence to support a strategic approach to the maintenance, development and modernisation of facilities. It also outlined the value of the evidence base and modelling which formed a key component of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan / Local Plan.

Both the Sports and Leisure Manager and Councillor Cross, Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services attended the meeting to answer any questions on the report.

The Committee supported the report and strategy as set out in the report. It congratulated the Sports and Leisure Manager and members of the team involved with the report.

(Councillor Mrs Falp left the meeting at the start of discussion on this item and Councillor Mrs Gallagher left the meeting during discussion of this item.)

55. PUBLIC & PRESS

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items, by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below.

Minute No.	Para Nos.	Reason
56	1	Information relating to an individual.
56	2	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
56	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

The full minutes of Minute 56 would be contained within a confidential minute which would be considered for publication following the implementation of the relevant decisions. However, a summary of the decisions was as follows:

56. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 9 OCTOBER 2013

Item 8 – Building Control Shared Service

The Committee passed comment on item 8 on the Executive agenda, "Building Control Shared Service", which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 9 October 2013.

(The meeting finished at 8.00 pm)