

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 November 2014 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Brookes, Ms Dean, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Gill, Mrs Grainger, Guest, Mrs Higgins, Illingworth, Kinson OBE, Weber and Wreford-Bush.

**Also Present:** Councillors Mrs Gallagher, Hammon and Mobbs.

The Chairman asked Councillor Boad to convey the Committee's good wishes to Councillor Copping.

## 55. **Substitutes**

Councillor Ms De-Lara-Bond substituted for Councillor Copping, and Councillor Weber substituted for Councillor Edwards.

## 56. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## 57. **Development Services Portfolio Holder Update**

The Committee considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Development Services, Councillor Hammon, giving an update on his portfolio, followed by a Question and Answer Session. Councillor Hammon informed the Committee that:

- the Council was not competitive in respect of land charges when compared to the Private Sector, but the Council had reduced its fees and streamlined the process;
- the Council would be responding to enforcement issues and complaints quicker. The Planning Department had experienced some staffing shortages due to illness but when this had been resolved, the Department would be able to speed up response times;
- non-operational buildings within the Council's property portfolio would remain the responsibility of Economic Development. Plans to move the responsibility to the Housing Department were no longer moving forward. The Council was making efforts to repair these buildings and let them out, but it was not easy to lease older buildings;
- Warwick Town Centre Action Plan would be in the Local Plan; work on Leamington Spa's would commence in early 2015;
- the Government set statutory time periods for determining planning applications, which if not met could result in a Planning Authority being put into "special measures"; this Council was well out of the danger zone for this;
- in respect of HS2, it was important that the Council achieved mitigating measures if the scheme went ahead; and

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

- the Planning Department was working with parishes in respect of Neighbourhood Plans. There was an ambitious timetable for the Local Plan, into which Neighbourhood Plans fell.

The Committee thanked Councillor Hammon and the Head of Development Services for the information they had provided.

(Councillor Hammon left the meeting after he had finished answering questions. Councillor Mobbs arrived at the end of this item.)

### **58. Cultural Services Portfolio Holder Update**

The Committee considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services, Councillor Mrs Gallagher, giving an update on her portfolio, followed by a Question and Answer Session. Councillor Mrs Gallagher informed the Committee that:

- the Bowls England event during the summer had been very successful and a report would be forthcoming. Parking arrangements for the event had proven very successful and there had been no problems in respect of parking arrangements. She had visited the event every day;
- she would look into the possibility for the Events Team to help street marshalls;
- there was an increase in the hirings at the Spa Centre over previous years, with a reported decrease in the Council's subsidy of £12,000 within the first six months;
- Whilst the Bowls England event was on-going, the park had been available to the public for normal park use;
- she would be willing to arrange for new councillors to view the Art Gallery; and
- flags flying along Parade during the Bowls event had been organised last minute at her insistence when she became Portfolio Holder. She accepted that they might have been bigger, but she had obtained them at the last minute.

### **59. Sports & Leisure Options**

The Head of Cultural Services and the Sports and Leisure Manager gave Councillors a briefing on work being done by Cultural Services to inform them on what work had been done to-date and what was still left to do to ensure the right sort of mix of facilities. This was ahead of a report due to be presented to the Executive the following day.

### **60. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 5 November 2014**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 5 November 2014.

#### **Item 4 – Sports & Leisure Options**

The Committee noted the recommendations in the report and formally recommended that they were accepted by the Executive.

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

(Councillors Mrs Gallagher and Mobbs left the meeting at the end of discussions on this item.)

### **61. Updated CCTV Figures**

The Committee considered a report from the Safer Communities Manager which gave updated figures on customer satisfaction, income, expenditure and performance following a report on the effectiveness and value of the CCTV service. Councillor Illingworth, who had participated in the original Task & Finish Group project to implement CCTV within the District, had helped the Safer Communities Manager update all of the charts.

Councillor Illingworth stated that it had been felt necessary to provide the updated statistics to see if further work was required to scrutinise CCTV effectiveness. The updated figures had shown that a further review was unnecessary.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

### **62. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2014 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **63. 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 at the end of September.

**Resolved** that the report be noted.

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

The Committee considered its work programme for 2014/15 and the latest published version of the Forward Plan.

The Committee asked the Committee Services Officer to raise its concern with the Head of Finance over the length of time before the Social Value in Procurement report would be delivered. The Deputy Chief Executive (BH) reported that when this report had been chased previously, the Head of Finance had indicated that the work on the Code of Procurement Practice that the Department had been asked to deliver had to take priority.

The Committee was asked to consider whether it required reports on any of the Partnerships listed on pages 5 & 6 of the report and it was

**Resolved** that:

- (1) the report be noted; and

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)**

- (2) the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Falp, will ask the Interim Head of Human Resources to provide a presentation on the Learning Academy.

### **65. Annual Feedback on Outside Appointments**

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services that gave an annual statement of work undertaken by Outside Bodies.

The Committee thanked all Councillors who had submitted a report.

#### **RESOLVED** that

- (1) the report be circulated to all the District Councillors; and
- (2) the report be noted.

### **66. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 5 November 2014**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 5 November 2014.

#### **Item 6 – Bishop’s Tachbrook Community Centre**

The Committee agreed a consensus on recommendation 2.3 in the report, but did not agree a consensus on this particular case.

#### **Item 11 – Code of Conduct Consultation**

The Committee noted the report.

#### **Item 13 – Local Plan Consultations**

The Committee noted the recommendations in the report and that the Chief Executive had used his delegated authority to move things forward.

(The meeting finished at 8.45 pm)