

# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 29 August 2018 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Falp (Chairman); Councillors Boad, Bromley, D'Arcy, H Grainger, Naimo, Parkins, Mrs Redford and Mrs Stevens.

**Also Present:** Councillors Gill, Phillips, Thompson and Whiting.

## 25. Apologies and Substitutes

- (a) Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davison and Shilton.
- (b) Councillor Mrs Stevens substituted for Councillor Mrs Cain.

## 26. Declarations of Interest

### Minute 29 – Report on Fuel Poverty

Councillor Boad declared a pecuniary interest because he was a director and trustee of Act on Energy. He left the room whilst this item was discussed.

## 27. Minutes

- (a) The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2018 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- (b) The amendment to the minutes, with the addition of minute number 7a, of previously approved minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2018 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. The minutes were also amended to correctly state the declaration of interest made by Councillor Boad (minute 9) to show that he was a director and trustee of Act on Energy.
- (c) The minutes of the Joint meeting of the Finance & Audit and Overview & Scrutiny Committees held on 24 July 2018 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- (d) The minutes of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 July 2018 were noted.

## 28. Work Programme, Forward Plan & Comments from Executive

The Committee considered its work programme for 2018 and the Forward Plan and the responses the Executive gave to the comments the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in July 2018.

**Resolved** that:

- (1) the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) should organise for an update from CDP be given at to the Committee in October;

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- (2) the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) should organise for an update from CDP be given to all Councillors ahead of Group meetings in October;
- (3) verbal briefings should be given on both the Phase 2 Leisure Development in Kenilworth and the Events Review Update if the reports to Executive scheduled to take place in September are delayed;
- (4) the "Mystery Shopper" item should be removed from the Work Programme;
- (5) the "Housing & Homelessness Strategy" item should be removed from the Work Programme;
- (6) the Council Development Company item should be removed from the Work Programme;
- (7) the Emergency Planning item should be scheduled for June 2019;
- (8) Shakespeare's England should be asked to provide an annual report in March 2019, and the report should include KPI's and what has been achieved on these;
- (9) Councillor Mobbs should be asked to provide an update on CWLEP at a convenient date; and
- (10) the Comments from the Executive report detailed at appendix 2 to the report is noted.

### 29. **Report on Fuel Poverty**

The Committee considered a report from Health & Community Protection and Housing Services which summarised the Council's latest position in relation to fuel poverty. A table providing data by Ward Area on the proportion of households that were fuel poor as a percentage was circulated at the meeting.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Sustainability Officer and Councillor Thompson as the Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection, the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Health & Community Protection explained that:

- The Team had concentrated on Brunswick Ward because data it had from 2015 showed that this area had high levels of fuel poverty households. New data had arrived so analysis would be done to determine where work was required.
- Private Sector landlords would be contacted where the EPC ratings were in categories F and G to advise them of their obligations on fuel efficiency.

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- Figures for the percentage of Council properties that had solar panels would be provided after the meeting. However, the percentage was low because the grant funding from the Government had been reduced. 100 properties had been fitted with solar "PVP" panels five years ago.
- Not all Council properties had gas boilers. Housing in rural areas might not be connected to mains gas. Post-Grenfell, the Council had made the decision to take gas out of multi-storey housing because these buildings had been designed for electric heating; the effect on these tenants' heating bills would be negligible because the heating was fuel efficient.
- Officers would examine if there was a correlation between the four top fuel poverty Wards and student accommodation.
- There were plans to engage more university students to help; work was in progress with Coventry University for a potential nine month placement.

(Councillors Phillips and Thompson left the meeting and Councillor Boad re-joined the meeting.)

### **30. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Thursday 30 August 2018**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Thursday 30 August 2018.

#### **Item 5 – Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

The Committee supported the recommendations in the report but was concerned at the level of complexity of the questionnaire and the effect this might have on the response rate.

(Councillor Whiting left the meeting.)

### **31. Public and Press**

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

(Councillor Gill left the meeting.)

### **32. Executive Agenda (Confidential items and reports) – Thursday 30 August 2018**

The Committee considered the following confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Thursday 30 August 2018.

The full minute of Minute 32 would be contained within a confidential minute which would be considered for publication following the

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implementation of the relevant decisions. However, a summary of the decision was as follows:

### Urgent Item - Creative Quarter Growth Deal Update Report

The majority of Committee Members supported the recommendations in the report.

#### 33. **Confidential Minutes**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2018 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### 34. **Work Programme, Forward Plan & Comments from Executive**

The Committee considered the responses the Executive gave to the comments the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made regarding the confidential reports submitted to the Executive in July 2018.

**Resolved** that the Confidential Comments from the Executive report is noted.

(The meeting ended at 7.40 pm)

Signature redacted



CHAIRMAN  
25 September 2018