

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 June 2011 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Blacklock, Boad, Mrs Bromley, Brookes, Davies, Ms Dean, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Dhillon, Mrs Falp, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Mellor, Weber and Wilkinson.

## 1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed and duly seconded that Councillor Brookes be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing municipal year. On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

It was proposed and duly seconded that Councillor Gifford be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing municipal year. On being put to the vote it was:

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Gifford be appointed as Chairman for the ensuing municipal year..

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Minute Number 5 – Executive Agenda (Non Confidential Items and Reports)

Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Mrs Falp and Wilkinson declared personal interests in Executive Item number 15 Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme because they were members of the grants review working party.

## 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2011 were taken as read and subject to two amendments on attendance, signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## 4. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services which detailed the responses the Executive gave to the Committees' comments on the reports submitted to the Executive on 30 March 2011.

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.

Some members of the comments felt that the comments that had been received from Executive would be more helpful if they were more detailed.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MINUTES (Continued)

### 5. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON- CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 30 MARCH 2011**

#### Item 4 - Dog Control Orders

The Committee agreed that in principal the orders were a good move, but the detail of schedules needed to be refined.

Agree Appendix 1A and 1B the concerns overall related to the dogs on leads and exclusions, therefore the Committee made the following recommendations to the Executive.

The Committee recommended to the Executive:

- Negotiated solution with the Jockey Club as racecourse lease holders over the management of the land and the Committee has concerns about 7.12 (ii)
- Dogs on leads for crematorium and cemeteries not excluded (a member thought that Oakley should be retained as present with dogs not being permitted);
- Mill Gardens should be removed from the order, to enable dogs to run free but under control, because no complaints have been received about dogs in this area;
- Improved signage advertising the order and enforcement, advertising of free bags, promote the number of fixed penalty notices that we have issued each month; and
- The orders be amended to reflect the discussions with the golf course on clarity of dog control on their land.

In addition the Committee would appreciate clarity on who was responsible, either WDC or Mack Golf, for the public right of way by the golf course and who would be responsible for controlling this area, and the advice provided to the Executive be circulated to all Councillors on this.

The Committee were mindful of two different type of dog owners and it was the irresponsible ones who caused the problems and who needed to be tackled. The greater need was for enforcement on the street which was where the evidence was for a greater number of complaints.

#### Item 7 - 2011/12 Service Area Plans and Portfolio Holder Statements

The Committee needed to have complete data to enable fuller scrutiny and accountability. This was key to the success of the Council. If Shadow Portfolio Holders were to undertake most of this work, there was an urgent need for training on this area of work for all opposition members.

There should also be an aim to reduce the number of targets to make the process leaner in line with FFF ambitions of this Council.

#### Item 8 - Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership: 5 Year Strategy

The Committee supported the recommendations of the report but the Committee empathised the importance of making recommendation 2.2

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

work as, in their opinion, this would be the key to achieving the full benefit of the LEP.

### **Item 15 - Rural/Urban Capital Improvement Scheme**

Although there were inequalities the scheme overall was welcomed by the Committee as an improvement on the current arrangement and the scheme did provide a tool to leaver money into schemes to enable improved facilities for the community.

### **Item 17 - Terms of the Warwick District Council / Waterloo Housing Group Development Joint Venture**

The Committee felt there was a need to emphasise the need to recognise those in work modestly paid work. Five year tenancies were reasonable but there was potentially a need in circumstances to have longer leases. Would welcome cross party involvement, ideally shadow portfolio holders, in monitoring effectiveness of the agreement. The Committee sort clarification on 3.1 because originally this proposal was for 300 affordable housing this now reads up to or over 300 homes therefore this should read "will deliver 300 units".

### **Item 21 - Proposed Enterprise Zone**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee in essence supported the recommendations. Members had a number of concerns but looked for the Council to discuss the potential with the local parish council.

## **6. FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for June 2011 to September 2011.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## **7. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the Committees' work programme for 2011.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the crime and disorder report be submitted to the July meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) the task & finish group for discretionary travel be reconvened to consider the options available following the decisions by WCC on flexibus routes.

## **8. FIT FOR THE FUTURE OVERSIGHT GROUP**

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

The Committee considered a request from Policy and Improvement to appoint three members of the Committee to the Fit for the Future oversight group.

**RESOLVED** that Councillors Boad, Brookes and Mrs Dean be appointed to the Fit for the Future oversight group

### **9. VOLUNTEERING POLICY SCOPING DOCUMENT**

The Committee received a scoping document from Councillor Gifford and the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) which set out a proposed remit of a Task and Finish Group to deliver a Council Wide volunteering policy.

The Committee had agreed the scoping document in March but had deferred until after the election the appointment of members to the Group.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) all non Executive members be invited to participate in the Task & Finish Group; and
- (2) the membership of the Group be confirmed at the next meeting as part of the Work Programme report.

### **10. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 8 JUNE 2011**

There were no confidential Executive items brought forward for discussion.

(The meeting finished at 9.23pm)