

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 January 2014 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 Gallagher, Gifford, Guest, Illingworth, Weed and Williams.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors; Caborn (Deputy Leader and Strategic Leadership Portfolio Holder), Coker (Portfolio Holder for Health and Community Protection) and Mobbs (Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brookes, Mrs Falp, Mrs Higgins and Kinson.

83. **SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor Weed substituted for Councillor Mrs Knight; and Councillor Williams substituted for Councillor Brookes.

83. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute Number 88 – Kenilworth Public Service Centre Feasibility Study & Business Case – Call in of Executive Decision

Councillor Mrs Blacklock declared a personal interest because she was part of the working party involved in this project.

Councillor Illingworth declared a personal interest because he was a member of Kenilworth Town Council.

Minute Number 86 – Assets Review – Call in of Executive Decision

Councillor Gifford declared a personal interest because Royal Leamington Spa Town Council, of which he was a member, was a tenant in the Town Hall, which formed part of the assets.

84. **STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

The Chairman informed Members that she would not be following the order of the agenda so that reporting Councillors and officers could leave the meeting as soon as possible.

The Committee received an update from the Strategic Leadership Portfolio Holder, Councillor Caborn.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Caborn explained that:

- The vacancies for the positions of Chairman and Chief Executive on the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board had not yet been filled.

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The offers that had been made had not been taken up, so the search continued. There was concern that these vacancies had not been appointed but Members were assured that the recruitment process was well underway.

- Officers from Coventry City Council would ensure continuity until the vacancies were filled.
- The first draft of the Coventry & Warwickshire Strategic and Economic Plan had been published in December 2013. The final report was expected to be published in March 2014. It would be possible to circulate the document to Councillors if required.
- Councillor Mobbs would be taking over from Councillor Caborn on the LEP Board and Councillor Caborn would be joining the Joint Committee of the Economic and Prosperity Board.
- The village consultation for the Local Plan was now underway.
- Warwick District Council was liaising with Stratford District Council in respect proposed developments close to the Warwick District Council/Stratford District Council border and all parties were anxious to move forward. Members would be briefed before Group meetings on 20 January.
- In respect of Fit for the Future, all Members had received an up to date report recently and would have to decide how to move forward.
- Members complimented the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) for his work.
- Members were assured that the checks and balances that were part of the planning process would continue but a protocol had been drafted to move towards a more positive approach to ensure that plans like Fen End were moved along smoothly.
- The Local Plan consultation analysis and air quality report would be available as soon as possible.
- The new Chief Executive of the LEP Board, when appointed, would be asked to look at ensuring communication was handled better.
- The minutes of the LEP Board meeting would be available from 27 January.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Caborn for answering questions.

85. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 8 JANUARY 2014

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 8 January 2014.

Item 6 – Support for an Indoor Bowls Facility

The Committee was delighted with the report which received strong support from Members and recommended that the Executive approve the proposals.

Councillor Coker arrived at the end of discussions on this item.

86. ASSETS REVIEW – CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

On 11 December 2013, the Executive made decisions on a report: Item 8 "Assets Review". In accordance with the Council's call in procedure, three

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or more Councillors called in the decisions made at that meeting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Concerns voiced by Members centred on caring for historical assets and keeping these facilities available and open to the public. There was concern that a considerable amount of public money had been spent on the buildings and that the proposals made on 11 December might restrict public access, especially to the Library and Pump Rooms. It was felt more consideration needed to be given to the balance of making best use of an historical building against costs to run it and that this was worthy of further debate. Therefore it was

RESOLVED to refer the decision to the Council for debate.

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

87. 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
88	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

88. KENILWORTH PUBLIC SERVICE CENTRE FEASIBILITY STUDY & BUSINESS CASE – CALL IN OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

On 11 December 2013, the Executive made decisions on a report: Item 16 "Kenilworth Public Service Centre (KPSC) Feasibility Study & Business Case". In accordance with the Council's call in procedure, three or more Councillors called in the decisions made at that meeting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED to refer the decision to the Council for debate.

Councillor Coker left the meeting at the end of discussions on this item.

89. MINUTES

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

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90. 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 confidential reports submitted to the Executive in December.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The Chairman announced that the meeting was in public session again.

91. MINUTES

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

In respect of minute number 80 – Item 10 – CCTV & Lighting in St Nicholas Park, the Chairman informed Members that she had written to the Police Commissioner in respect of St Nicholas Park but had not yet received a reply.

92. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

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Item 4 – Refreshed Community Strategy/Fit for the Future

Members were informed that it was expected that a report on air quality would be going forward to the Executive in February.

Item 10 – CCTV & Lighting in St Nicholas Park

Members asked if Councillor Coker had received a reply back from the Police in respect of problems at the Park caused by anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

93. FORWARD PLAN

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

Members were informed that the relocation project for Riverside House had been postponed pending financial appraisals.

Forward Plan reference 562 – Local Air Quality Management

The Deputy Chief Executive (BH) was asked to check if this had been done for Warwick also.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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94. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

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

11 February 2014 – HARP

It was reported that a draft report had been circulated to appropriate officers and it was hoped that the report would be ready for February.

11 February 2014 – Children's Champion

The Deputy Chief Executive (BH) hoped to meet with Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Gallagher in February to discuss the issues.

Review of the Constitution

This had not yet been put on the Work Programme because the date set against it on the Forward Plan had not been set.

11 February 2014 – Portfolio Holder Update

There was a typing error. The two portfolio holders should be Councillors Vincett and Mrs Grainger. Fortunately the two Councilors were aware that they were required to attend the next meeting as the Committee Services Officer had informed them of this and that a report was requested in advance.

Health Scrutiny Working Party

The Working Party would be meeting the following week and if possible, would be submitting its report to the Committee in February. Dr Linnane, the Director of Public Health had requested to attend Council on 22 January to address all Members.

Task and Finish Group – Staff Volunteering

It was reported that there would be no problem with a survey but it was necessary to meet to see if it was worth continuing this work.

Task and Finish Group – SEVs

The consultation process did not commence as planned because more discussion with the legal team was required having received advice that the consultation exercise should be handled by outside consultants. Any consultation had to be over a six week period and it was hoped to complete the exercise in spring. The Chairman of the Task and Finish Group was aware of the concern about the delay in progress.

The Chairman informed Members that the meeting scheduled for Group Leaders to discuss the Outside Bodies report had been postponed.

Members were reminded to ensure they commented on the Standards Committee recommendations with a deadline set of the end of January.

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RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(The meeting finished at 7.45 pm)