

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1 December 2009 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Gifford (Chair); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Boad, Coker, Copping, Ms De-Lara-Bond, Gill, Mrs Higgins, Mrs McFarland, Mrs Mellor, Weed, and Wilkinson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Sawdon and White.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

64. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2009, were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

65. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the response the Executive gave to the Committees' comments on the reports submitted to the Executive on 11 November 2009.

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.

As part of the new scrutiny process, the Committee were no longer considering the whole of the Executive agenda. The Committee considered the items as detailed in appendix 1 to the report, and the response the Executive gave was also shown.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

67. FORWARD PLAN – THE EXECUTIVES WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for December 2009 to March 2010.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

68. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from Members' Services on the Committees' work programme for 2009/2010.

At the Committees' meeting on 10 November 2009, it was agreed that the reports as listed in appendix 1 to the report, would be submitted to the meeting in December 2009.

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RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the Committees' work programme:

- (1) a scoping document be submitted to the Committee in February 2010 from Councillor Boad with regard to the Discretionary Assisted Travel Scheme;
- (2) a report from the Deputy Chief Executive with regard to the preparation for climate change, be moved from December 2009 to February 2010; and
- (3) a report be submitted to the Committee in August 2010 updating the Committee on the progress of the recommendations from the Maintenance of Trees Task and Finish Group

69. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON- CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2009

Agenda Item Number 12 – Free Swimming

The Committee recommended that the Executive take full account of the proposals in section 3.8 of the Executive report and were particularly concerned that the scheme may be started and then not continued after 2011. Once sufficient data was collected, the Committee would like regular monitoring reports to the Executive, which included information on the take up of the scheme and the number of 17 year olds who continued to use the facilities.

Agenda Item Number 13 – Annual Monitoring Report.

The Committee were concerned about the potential slippage with regard to the date of publication of the Core Strategy in May 2010 and every effort should be made to have it in place by August 2010, and meet all the stated deadlines.

Agenda Item 14 - Review of the assisted Travel Scheme

The Committee recommended that the Executive commit to ring fencing any unspent money from this scheme so it was available to fund any future changes to this scheme, pending the outcome of the proposed Task and Finish Group Scrutiny review.

Members' also agreed the money should be ring fenced for any changes to the scheme in the future and not used for other future developments.

Agenda Item 17B - Review of Children's Play Area

The Head of Cultural Services attended the meeting and answered questions from the Committee.

The Committee felt there were some scores, shown in Appendix 2, which were not easy to understand. The Committee would also find it useful to have details of the methodology used to score the play areas and looked forward to

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receiving the information on usage and the spatial relationship between the play areas.

Agenda Item 17K - Review of Risk Management

The Committee were concerned that the risk score of the Core Strategy might be greater than 12 and felt that the Executive should be presented with the score as it currently stood.

70. 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 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.

71. EXECUTIVE AGENDA (CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2009

Agenda Item Number 24 – Report on Chandos Street Update

The Deputy Chief Executive presented this report verbally to the Committee and answered any questions they had.

The Committee supported the recommendations set out in the report and supported the recommendation that a member working group be set up. The Chair stated that the nominations for the working group would be Councillor Crowther the Labour Group and Councillor Boad for the Liberal Democrat Group.

72. SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered a report (Executive Agenda Item Number 11) from Organisational Development & Performance Improvement on the second Quarter Performance results for 2009/10 along with the mitigations and corrective actions for those indicators that were off target.

The regular and systematic reporting of performance results against target, trended over time and compared with other authorities was a fundamental element of the Council's integrated performance management framework. The performance management framework in turn remained a key tool for ensuring the Council stayed focussed on what mattered to ensure it delivered its services efficiently and effectively.

The Committee were concerned that the following performance indicators had missed their targets and were not satisfied with the explanations of why this had occurred. The Committee made the following comments;

- The Committee did not fully understand the relationship between the performance indicators HPS5, HPS4 and CS2i and would like an

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explanation of this, which should also be passed to the Executive.

- The Committee were concerned that in quarter 4 (March 2009) Ni196 the performance was graded as 'Very Effective' (Grade 1) and has subsequently dropped to 'Not Effective' (Grade 3). However the target was to be 'Effective' (Grade 2).
- The Committee were concerned that the target for PE25 had been missed and they did not feel that it was a satisfactory explanation.
- The Committee were concerned that CS1iii was a problem area and the results were not satisfactory; and
- RCS3 and RCS11 – The Committee were concerned about the waiting time before calls are answered and felt this was not satisfactory.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the above comments be passed to the Executive.

73. PREPERATION FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTIONS

The report due to be submitted by the Deputy Chief Executive had not been completed in time to be submitted to the Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be submitted to the February meeting.

74. MAINTENANCE OF TREES

The Committee considered a report from the Maintenance of WDC Trees Task and Finish Group, following the approval of the scoping document on 17 March 2009.

The report was presented by the Chairman of the Task and Finish Group, Councillor Mrs Higgins, who answered questions from the Committee.

The Committee agreed that this was an excellent report and would be supported. They were also aware of the need to keep regularly putting money into the budget, to enable new trees to be planted, especially in the larger avenues of the district which contained many mature trees that are reaching the end of their life.

RESOLVED that the report be approved for submission to the Executive in February 2010.

(The meeting ended at 8.15pm)