OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 30 May 2013 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 8.05 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Blacklock, Brookes, Dean, Dhillon, Edwards, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gifford, Gill, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Knight and Wreford-Bush.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Grainger (Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Community Services) and Mobbs (Portfolio Holder for Finance).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Boad, Copping and Kinson.

1. **SUBSTITUTES**

Councillor Wreford-Bush substituted for Councillor Boad.

2. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed and duly seconded

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Blacklock be elected Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the year 2013/14.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

The Committee received a verbal submission from Mr Brown who highlighted his concerns regarding corporate governance and Members' representation on outside bodies.

He felt that dual standards applied to Members who were not only trying to juggle the difficulties of 'dual-hatting' but also with them gauging whether their allegiance lay with the outside body they were appointed to, or to the Council they were representing.

The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) advised those present that all Members were given advice as to correct conduct and procedure when they were nominated as Category B directors and dealing with issues at a District and Borough level. He also agreed to circulate the legal advice that was sent to Category B directors for Members information.

Members agreed that this was an issue that needed further consideration to ensure that all Council representatives were fully prepared to avoid putting either the Council or the relevant outside body at risk.

Members queried what had happened to the annual report from all representatives on outside bodies which could assist clarify some of the issues raised by Mr Brown. The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) explained that, although it had been agreed with good intentions, it was not practical for all 46 members to report back. However, this was an issue that he would discuss with the Civic & Committee Services Manager to identify the best way forwards.

The Committee thanked Mr Brown for attending and highlighting the issue to them. It was agreed that public perception was paramount and that further scrutiny was necessary. They also agreed to add Scrutiny of LEP's to their workplan and hoped to be able to tighten up on policy with through training.

Mr Brown thanked the Committee for allowing him to speak and was encouraged with the steps that had been agreed. He also requested that he be written to with any formal outcome of the scrutiny.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services informing it of the current Forward Plan, attached as an appendix to the report.

One of the five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government was to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of Executive decisions. If the Committee had an interest in a future decision to be made by the Executive it was within the Committee's remit to feed into the process.

The Forward Plan detailed the future work programme for the Executive. If a non-Executive Member highlighted a decision which was to be taken by the Executive which they would like to be involved in, Members could then provide useful background to the Committee when the report was submitted to the Executive and they were passing comment on it.

Members were pleased to find out that the report regarding a policy for dealing with Houses in Multiple Occupation, would be submitted to the Executive on 19 June 2013.

In respect of the Forward Plan for June 2013 to September 2013 it was:

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services on the Committee's work programme for June to August 2013.

It had been agreed following Mr Brown's submission to the Committee in Agenda Item 4, that Scrutiny of LEP's should be added to the work plan for

July 2013. To assist with this work, it was agreed that an invitation be extended to Councillor Caborn to attend the Scrutiny meeting in July to discuss his representation on the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP.

In addition, Members felt it would be helpful for the Deputy Chief Executive (BH) be invited to attend the July meeting to advise on his role with the City Deal.

Members were advised that the Stock Condition Survey had recently been completed and CMT were arranging to discuss the outcome in due course. The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) suggested that the work plan be amended to advise that a report would be submitted to the October 2013 meeting.

Councillor Gifford requested that the Local Plan be added to the work plan for a review of progress in nine months time, taking the date to early 2014.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

8. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – TUESDAY 4 JUNE 2013**

Item 4 – Local Plan Revised Development Strategy

Following the Joint Finance & Audit and Overview & Scrutiny Committee, held prior to the start of this meeting, it had been agreed that the Joint Committee would submit Members' comments on behalf of both scrutiny committees.

(See Joint O&S and F&A Minutes – 30 May 2013).

(The meeting finished at 9.15 pm)