OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8 May 2013 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Gifford (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Blacklock, Brookes, Copping, Davies, Ms Dean, Dhillon, Edwards, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gill, Mrs Higgins, and Weber.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Vincett (Portfolio Holder for Housing and Property Services).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Boad.

138. **SUBSTITUTES**

There were no substitutes.

139. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute 145 – Implications on Warwick District Council of Warwickshire County Council proposals to outsource on-street parking enforcement

Councillor Gifford declared an interest and left the room whilst this item was debated because he was a Member of Warwickshire County Council.

140. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

141. **COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services which detailed the response the Executive had given to Members' comments regarding the non-confidential reports submitted to the Executive in April 2013.

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 was formally made aware of the Executive's responses.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

142. **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.

It was noted that there were no Executive items to discuss at the meeting as the Executive was not meeting on the following day as normal. Members felt that there needed to be more scrutiny on the Local Plan and therefore requested that the Head of Development Services and the Development Policy Manager attend the next meeting to answer questions. Members also asked the Committee Services Officer present to enquire if the next meeting could be moved to 30 May 2013.

In respect of the Forward Plan for May 2013 to August 2013 it was:

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

143. **REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME**

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

Councillor Mrs Blacklock informed the Committee that the draft report for the Dog Control Order Task and Finish Group had been delayed slightly because it had been agreed to change its format. The content had been approved by the Task and Finish Group and once it had been put into the amended format it would be passed to senior management before being presented to the Committee.

The Committee requested that an invitation was sent to Mr Alan Brown to attend the next meeting to discuss his concerns about the District Council's representation on the Local Enterprise Partnership.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

144. **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report from the Head of Housing and Property Services that gave an update on the Safeguarding Children Action Plan. The Action Plan formed Appendix One to the report.

The Head of Housing and Property Services explained that the Action Plan gave revised and more realistic dates of when actions would be completed.

The Committee agreed to request that the Executive appoint Elected Member Champions for Children's Safeguarding and Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Gallagher were recommended by the Committee for positions. However, if the decision did not need to be referred to the Executive, the

Head of Housing and Property Services agreed to meet with both Councillors.

RESOLVED that the Executive be requested to appoint Elected Member Champions for Children's Safeguarding and that Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Gallagher are recommended for positions.

145. IMPLICATIONS ON WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL PROPOSALS TO OUTSOURCE ON-STREET PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Councillor Gifford declared an interest because he was a Member of Warwickshire County Council. He left the room for the duration of the discussion.

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Blacklock chair the meeting for this item.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a report from Neighbourhood Services. Warwickshire County Council was considering outsourcing the enforcement of on-street parking which was likely to have a significant impact on the way Warwick District Council delivered off-street enforcement service which in turn would have an impact on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the shape of the organisation.

If this proposal was agreed by Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet, the District Council would be faced with a number of options as to how to react. A presentation was given to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which together with the report, explained the options open to the District Council and the impact of those on the way the off-street parking enforcement was delivered and the impact on the MTFS.

The presentation detailed the level of service the District Council currently gave and Members were informed that it would be important to consider what type of service should be offered in the future as this would shape the price of any tender for the service and cost reduction. Members were informed that the County Council had recently indicated that its thinking had moved towards one Authority delivering the service instead of the three (Rugby, Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick District). This had reduced options and was why the three Authorities were currently looking at reducing costs as a preferable option.

RESOLVED that a meeting with the Task and Finish Group at Warwickshire County Council be requested.

(Councillors Brookes and Mrs Falp left the meeting during discussions.)

Councillor Gifford returned to the meeting when discussions ended and resumed the Chair.

146. END OF TERM REPORT

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services on the work the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had undertaken for the

municipal year 2012/2013. Under Article 6 of the Council's Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees were required to provide an end of term report to the Council on work they had undertaken during the year.

The Committee decided that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme should include an update on the Oakley Wood Improvements and that the Portfolio Holder for Cultural Services should be invited to a future meeting to discuss the future of the cinema at the Spa Centre.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that the list of matters considered by this Committee during the municipal year 2012/13, as detailed in appendix A to the report, be noted.

147. **TASK AND FINISH GROUP – SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUES**

It was reported that the Task and Finish Group had reached a "hiatus" as far as progress was concerned, pending the results of a judicial review.

148. **TASK AND FINISH GROUP – STAFF VOLUNTEERING**

The Committee approved the membership of the Task and Finish Group, which would commence work in June.

RESOLVED that the membership of the Task and Finish Group for Staff Volunteering be Councillors Mrs Bromley, Gifford, Guest and Illingworth.

149. **PUBLIC AND 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 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
150-151	3	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
150-151	5	Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

150. **MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2013 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

151. **COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

The Committee considered a confidential report from Civic and Committee Services which detailed the response the Executive had given to Members' comments regarding the confidential reports submitted to the Executive in April 2013.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Councillor Gifford announced that he would not be continuing as Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the next municipal year as he had recently been elected as a Member of Warwickshire County Council. Councillor Mrs Blacklock thanked Councillor Gifford for his hard work on behalf of the Committee.

(The meeting finished at 7.52 pm)