Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5 April 2016 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillor Boad (Chairman); Councillors Bromley, Mrs Cain, Davison, Edgington, Miss Grainger, Margrave, Naimo, Parkins, Mrs Redford and Weed.

Also Present: Councillors Coker, Grainger and Mobbs.

79. **Apologies and Substitutes**

Councillor Weed substituted for Councillor D'Arcy.

80. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

81. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

82. **Comments from the Executive**

The Committee considered a report from Democratic Services which detailed the responses the Executive gave to the comments the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made regarding the reports submitted to the Executive in March 2016.

Resolved that the report be noted.

83. **Update from the Leader of the Council**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mobbs, gave the Committee a verbal update on his corporate and strategic leadership.

It had been a very busy municipal year, starting back in May 2015, with the Council elections. These elections had caused unprecedented work because not only had the Council elections been held, but also the Parliamentary elections and those for the parish and town councils within the District.

Following on from the Council elections, an extensive training programme had been undertaken to help the new Membership understand their roles and duties.

Following on from the elections, there had been a change in the Executive membership which had in turn, led to different working relationships with officers.

Work following on from the previous Membership had continued and the Council had progressed with a modified Local Plan.

The Leader was hopeful for the future. The Council had balanced its budget and it was possible that it could see a surplus in funds. But it was always necessary to remain cautious, and the Fit for the Future programme was ongoing to improve services.

In response to questions, Councillor Mobbs replied that:

- The process for publishing reports ahead of meetings did need speeding up because Members were not always given adequate time to fully examine the reports' contents. Part of the problem was the report deadline process itself which involved several stages of sign-off before the final report could be issued. He was considering whether reports should be circulated to Members in their "draft" phase.
- He noted the Committee's willingness to be called by the Executive to help develop policies.
- He did welcome positive and helpful feedback from the public. Today, after receiving about 50 to 60 very courteous emails from the public with comments about Campion Hills, he had made the decision to stop that report going ahead. He welcomed petitions if they were done based on the true facts of the matter.

84. Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Update

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mobbs, gave a progress report on the work being done by the CWLEP. Members were handed the minutes from the C&W LEP Board meetings of 25 January and 14 March 2015 and briefly summarised some of the items contained therein.

He felt that the biggest conundrum facing the CWLEP currently was the Coventry & Warwickshire Growth Hub. Businesses that needed help were finding it very difficult to know where they needed to approach. The Growth Hub currently faced a £1.5 million funding gap and the Managing Director of the Growth Hub had been given authorisation to approach Local Authorities to fund this gap; but there were concerns that not all Local Authorities would pay a reasonable contribution.

85. Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 6 April 2016

The Committee considered the following non-confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 6 April 2016. Other items the Committee had selected to discuss from the Executive agenda would be discussed later in the meeting.

Item number 3 – Codes of Procurement Practice

The Committee suggested that a higher loading/weighting should be placed against "Social Value" when evaluating quotes and tenders.

The Committee informed the Executive that it intended to monitor the outcomes of the proposed changes and urged the Executive to set up a monitoring and evaluation regime that clearly stated the strategic outcomes the Council aimed to achieve and how the achievement of these would be assessed. The Committee would be putting on its Work Programme an

action to review the impact of the changes 12 months after implementation.

86. **Children's Champion End of Year Report**

This report was deferred until June with the Chairman's agreement.

87. **Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan**

The Committee considered its work programme for 2016 and the Forward Plan.

Task & Finish Group – Off-street parking charges review

The membership of this Task & Finish Group was confirmed as Councillors Ashford, Boad, Butler, Day, Quinney and Mrs Stevens. It was noted that there was not a representative for Kenilworth on the group, so Councillors were asked to bring this to their Party Group Leader's attention to see if this would encourage a councillor who represented a constituency in Kenilworth to volunteer to join.

Task & Finish Group – HMO's

The Committee reviewed the Scope document for a Task & Finish Group which would be looking at various aspects of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's). It was felt that the Scope document was too wide ranging and needed narrowing down. It was suggested that the Scope document needed more detail on outputs, an example of which could be to make a recommendation to Council to extend licensing to include smaller HMO's. It was also suggested that the document should only specify HMO's and not other rented properties. Councillors Davison and Naimo were asked to re-present the Scope document to the Committee in June.

Issues surrounding Waste Management – service and complaints report

The Committee was informed that the Head of Neighbourhood Services was of the opinion that it was too soon to bring this report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it would therefore not be possible to make a sensible judgement as to whether the revised working arrangements adopted with Sita had made a material difference to the service and level of complaints.

The Committee requested that this report be brought to the next meeting in June, but failing that, they still would like a short report detailing what complaints (volume and type) had been received since Christmas so that they had a baseline against which to monitor future improvements. The Committee requested that either the Head of Service or the Portfolio Holder attended the next meeting.

Resolved that:

(1) the membership of the Task & Finish Group for off-street car parking charges is Councillors Ashford, Boad, Butler, Day, Quinney and Mrs Stevens. Group Leaders would be approached

to request a volunteer who represented a Kenilworth constituency;

(2) Councillors Davison and Naimo will amend the Scope document for a Task & Finish Group on HMO's to narrow its scope to just HMO's and to provide outputs; and

(3) a report on the issues surrounding waste management – service and complaints be provided to the June meeting; or if this was not possible, then a short report detailing what complaints (volume and type) had been received since Christmas.

88. **Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 6 April 2016**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 6 April 2016.

Item 5 – Gypsy & Traveller Site Identification Update

This item was cancelled following an instruction from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mobbs. He had been impressed by the constructive arguments against the proposals he had received from members of the public.

Item 7 – Support for Government Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme

The Committee recommended that recommendation 2.1 was amended so that the pledge was to assist in resettling ***at least*** five families within the district, within the life of the current scheme.

Item 9 – Master-planning of housing site allocations south of Coventry

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee noted the report.

(The meeting finished at 7.10 pm)