OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 August 2013 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Blacklock (Chairman); Councillors Boad, Dean, Edwards, Mrs Falp, Mrs Gallagher, Gill, Guest, Mrs Higgins, Mrs Knight and Wreford-Bush.

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

32. SUBSTITUTES

Councillor Wreford-Bush substituted for Councillor Gifford.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

34. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee considered a report from Civic and Committee Services which detailed the responses to comments that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had made in response to the Progress on the Warwick Town Centre Plan and the Procurement of Services from the Voluntary and Community Sector – Summary Year 1.

Councillor Mrs Higgins informed Members that it had been arranged to talk about the Warwick Mop survey with Scout groups over the summer.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

35. FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan which had been published for August 2013 to November 2013.

Members were informed that the Housing Strategy (Forward Plan reference A1) was being pushed back and it was hoped that it would be ready for November. Members suggested that the Housing Strategy and Development Officer should give a presentation to all councillors at a Group meeting.

The Chief Executive agreed to speak to the Democratic Services Manager about the expected timescale for Forward Plan reference 364 – Constitution, because it was unlikely that this would be going to the September Executive meeting in view of the fact that to-date there had been no consultation.

The Chief Executive agreed to review timescales on all items under the Head of Corporate and Community Services.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(Councillor Edwards joined the meeting during discussion of this item.)

36. **REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME**

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

It was noted that the proposals in respect of outside bodies representation had been done but were being checked by Group Leaders. A report should be ready for the October Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

Councillor Mrs Falp reported on the first meeting of the Health Scrutiny Working Group. The Senior Democratic Services Officer from Warwickshire County Council had given the Group an overview of the structure for Health Scrutiny at County level and what the District Council's input would be. In response to a question about how to obtain more GP surgeries in the District, Councillor Falp was able to inform Members that this would be part of the role of Health Scrutiny at District level. Members of the Group would be attending a meeting at Shire Hall on 23 September to network with other parties involved with Health Scrutiny.

The Committee discussed the process for inviting portfolio holders to attend Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. It was agreed that portfolio holders would be invited twice a year. In 2013, two portfolio holders would be invited to attend the October meeting, two in November and three in December. Councillor Shilton would be invited to the October meeting to talk about his area, with particular emphasis on waste management and the Committee would decide the schedule for the other portfolio holders at its meeting in September.

From 2014, portfolio holders would be invited in March, April and June to give a reflection on the work done over the previous year and to look forward to the coming year. Then portfolio holders would be invited to attend meetings in September, October and November to give an update on progress.

It was agreed that portfolio holders would be asked to send in a report to the Committee prior to attending the meetings. This report would be short, approximately two sides of A4 paper, and they would be asked to talk at the meeting for no longer than 10 minutes. The Committee was adamant that the portfolio holders must give the talk, not their Heads of Service.

The Committee asked the Chairman to prepare a format for portfolio holders to work to and present this for agreement at the next meeting.

The Chief Executive was asked to check progress in respect of Children's Champions. Councillors Mrs Falp and Mrs Gallagher were concerned that nothing had happened since the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recommended that they be Champions.

Councillor Mrs Knight gave an update on progress with respect to the Task and Finish Group's work on Sexual Entertainment Venues. The Committee

expressed concern at the slow progress and requested that a report be given at every meeting.

It was agreed that a report giving an update on Oakley Wood Cemetery come to the next Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

37. **EXECUTIVE AGENDA (NON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS AND REPORTS) – WEDNESDAY 7 AUGUST 2013**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential items which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 7 August 2013.

Item 4 – Budget Review to 30 June 2013

The Committee considered a report from Finance which gave Members an update on the latest position for the current financial year and the financial outlook.

The Labour Group Members had requested that this item be discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee because of the implications for services of the financial issues raised in the report.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee registered concerns about the future viability of some parts of the Council, and were interested to find out what details would be forthcoming in October 2013.

Item 6 – Proposal for the delivery of on-street Enforcement across Warwickshire

The Committee considered a report from Neighbourhood Services which gave details of a presentation by officers on 1 July to the Warwickshire County Council Task and Finish Group on the future delivery of on-street parking enforcement. The report gave an update on progress and set out a proposal made by officers from across the various Districts and Boroughs involved in delivering on and off-street enforcement which Members were asked to support and which it was hoped the Task and Finish Group at Warwickshire County Council would present to Full Council at Warwickshire County Council in November.

Labour Group Members requested that this item was discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee because of the importance particularly to town centres of well-run parking services and to discuss possible future steps. Liberal Democrat Members requested the items as a follow-up to the last report.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee made a formal recommendation to the Executive that the staff who had worked on the report should be complimented. The Committee accepted the report in its entirety and gave full support to the delegation.

Item 9b – Local List of Historic Buildings

The Committee considered a report from Development Services to implement a local list of historic buildings within Warwick District in line with national guidance to give protection to historic assets that do not have the benefit of statutory protection.

The Liberal Democrat Group Members requested that this item was discussed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee because they could not quite understand what the status of these properties would be and what enforceability these proposals had.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations in the report but had reservations about how it would operate in practice.

(The meeting finished at 6.55 pm)