Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 29 November 2016 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

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

Also Present: Councillors Grainger, Mobbs and Phillips.

45. **Apologies and Substitutes**

There were no apologies or substitutes.

46. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

47. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) clarified Minute 43 in respect of Councillor Shilton. He reported that Councillor Shilton did attend the Waste Management Forum, but he had never been invited to a National Parking Adjudication Service meeting. He sent his apologies for not submitting reports.

48. **Portfolio Holder Update – Housing & Property Services**

The Portfolio Holder for Housing & Property Services, Councillor Phillips, gave an update on his portfolio area. In response to questions, he informed the Committee that:

- The staff turnover in the department was not unusual. There had been some staff turnover within the management structure, but the reasons for this were not exceptional. Some of the vacancies had been filled with Council staff and the Head of Service vacancy would be recruited once the festive period was over.
- He agreed that the policy of financial inclusion had made a huge difference to people.
- There were still not enough affordable houses available. 180 affordable homes had been built in 2016. He anticipated that in the next three years, 1,000 more would be built.
- He was very concerned that the Government still had not announced its decision in respect of its Bill on the Housing Revenue Account. The item had been placed on the Executive agenda specifically to help with budgeting, but figures could only be estimated without the Bill being passed. He had written to the Government to express concern.
- He was very pleased with the design of the affordable housing that had been built. Once matters had settled down, he felt it would be

appropriate to hold a formal opening ceremony to which Members would be invited for a tour.

- He was aware that the demand for housing was mainly single bed accommodation. Some four-bedroomed properties had been built, but the Council was asked to waive any S106 agreements in respect of these because there was no demand for them. In time, if this continued to be the case, then there might be an opportunity to sell these properties on the private market.

Councillor Phillips, when asked how the Committee might assist the department, replied that when the strategy report went to the Executive, the Committee might be minded to scrutinise it.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Phillips for attending the meeting to answer questions.

49. **Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 30 November 2016**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 30 November 2016.

Item 11 - Notice of Motion

The Committee noted the Motion.

(Councillor Phillips left the meeting.)

50. **Summary of the role, responsibilities and work of the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (SWCSP)**

The Committee considered a report from Health & Community Protection which set out the role, responsibilities and work of the South Warwickshire Community Safety Partnership (SWCSP). This was a statutory body for reducing crime, disorder, substance misuse and reoffending in South Warwickshire.

It was noted that after years of crime figures reducing, they had started to increase. The reasons for this were unclear, but the standards used for recording crime figures had changed so that more crimes were now included in the figures. More awareness of the need to report incidents such as begging had increased figures. However, whilst the trend was now upward, the figures for the District were still less than elsewhere in the County. A rise in the reported figures for violence against people could be partly explained by the way in which these crimes were recorded had changed, because now more categories were included. The Police had also been required to back record figures for crimes that had previously not been recorded. Research was being undertaken to see how other Community Safety Partnerships recorded their crime figures and what lessons could be learnt from them such as encouraging nightclub staff to use badge cameras.

(Councillor Mobbs arrived at the meeting at the end of this item.)

51. Review of Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Committee considered a report from the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee which summarised the Council's current position in relation to Health and Wellbeing including the current delivery review and the achievements of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee in the last year.

Officers had undertaken a multi-faceted review of the Council's approach to Health and Wellbeing and had been able to form a baseline from which the Council could begin a comprehensive mapping exercise of the interrelationships and documentation between the various stakeholders in the process of Health and Wellbeing for the County. A chart of this was shown as Appendix 2 to the report, with Appendix 3 giving a more simplified version.

The results of this review had given rise to a number of conclusions that would assist the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee and the Council to have a greater input into the health and wellbeing arrangements for Warwickshire.

Resolved that:

(1) Overview and Scrutiny Committee endorse the continued format of the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee in order to ensure that the reviewed approach to Health and Wellbeing arrangements supported by the Sub-Committee can be held to scrutiny;

(2) The achievements of the Sub-Committee and Council are noted against the thematic priority of Health and Wellbeing; and

(3) The report is accepted in lieu of the Work Programme item 4 January 2017 and therefore authorises its removal from the Work Programme.

52. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan

The Committee considered its work programme for 2016/2017 and the Forward Plan.

Children's Champion Report

The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) reported that he would follow up this matter up with Councillor Grainger and report to the Committee.

Resolved that a report on the work currently being done at the Council by Children's Champions be rolled forward on the Work Programme.

53. Task & Finish Group Updates

HMO's

It was reported that the Group had now received some proposals from officers. The Group was meeting every two weeks and was just starting to write the report.

Off-Street Parking Charges Review

It was reported that the Group was still gathering information. It was recognised that work needed to progress faster. The Group still had to meet with interested parties.

The Deputy Chief Executive (AJ) pressed for a timescale when information would be ready for financial planning.

54. **Executive Agenda (Non-confidential items and reports) – Wednesday 30 November 2016**

The Committee considered the following non-confidential item which would be discussed at the meeting of the Executive on Wednesday 30 November 2016.

Item 9 – Development Brief for King's High, Warwick

The Committee stressed that the Council should aim for 40% affordable housing. It would also like Sustainable Transport Options mentioned in the report.

(The meeting finished at 7.15 pm)