

Draft Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 13th December 2007 in Committee Rooms A, B & C, Monkton Park, Chippenham, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Chair: C.J. Caswill

Committee Councillors: P.C.B. Coleman, P.J. Doyle, J.M. Hartless, A.K. Hill, R.B. McGregor, S.G. Parker, M.L. Singlehurst, J.P.S.S. Thomson

Other Members Present:

Officers Present: G. Wilson (Assistant to the Deputy Chief Executive), P. Jeremiah (Legal Team Manager) and J. Whittleton (Policy & Democratic Services Assistant)

O88. Apologies for Absence

None received.

O89. Membership

There were no changes.

O90. Public Question Time/Receipt of Petitions

There were no public questions nor petitions received.

O91. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd November 2007 were considered.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 22nd November 2007 be signed as a correct record.

O92. Declarations of Interest

None.

O93. Chair's Announcements

The Chair, Councillor C.J. Caswill:

The Chairman stated that he had attended a meeting with the Leader and Deputy Leader which had been productive. He added that he had received information on the Executive's plans on a number of issues which may help inform the Overview & Scrutiny Work Plan.

The Chairman gave a brief update on the Rural Unitary Task Group, stating that the County report on shared services which was considered by the Group will now be placed on the Implementation Executive Agenda.

Urgent Business:

“In accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 having regard to the special circumstances pertaining in this matter – namely, the need to provide a response ahead of the next Council meeting I am of the opinion that, despite its non-inclusion on the Agenda, the matter of Notice of Motion should be considered at this meeting as a matter of urgency”.

This item will be taken after item 6, Chair’s Announcements.

O94. Notice of Motion

Consideration was given to the Notice of Motion which was circulated at the last meeting as Report No.14.

Issues discussed included:

- The reasons for the motion;
- The current procedure for when a decision is called in; and
- Suggested amendments to the motion.

Resolved that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee supports the following amendment to the motion:

‘When the call-in procedure is exercised, those Members requesting the call-in, shall also notify the proper officer of the detailed reasons for that request and that Council Procedure Rule 40 be amended accordingly.’

O95. Action Report

Consideration was given to Report No. 7, circulated with the Agenda, which provided an update on actions originating from the Committee.

Issues discussed included:

- Actions 3&4 relating to recommendations to the Development Control Committee are likely to go forward to the Committee on the 30th January 2008 or the 20th February 2008;
- The Housing Advice Task Group Report is likely to be presented to the Executive in January; and
- Action 15 requesting a list of the five Councils’ appointments to the transitional Executive along with political groups has recently been completed and sent to members.

Resolved that the Report be noted.

O96. Update on the Introduction of Residents Parking Schemes in Chippenham

Consideration was given to Report No. 8, circulated with the Agenda, which provided an update on the current position of Residents Parking Schemes in Chippenham.

Issues discussed included:

- Consultation on schemes will be carried out in early January 2008, analysis will take place in mid February;
- Legislation in place to deal with blocked accesses and obstruction to the highway. Responsibility for which is with the Police;
- Residents parking schemes in Swindon and Salisbury have had the effect of pushing commuter parking to the streets outside the schemes;
- Any residents parking scheme needs a majority vote from the residents to set it up (no response = a negative vote). The Committee requested that an explanation of this report be covered in the next report.
- The possibility of removing the single yellow line in Hawthorn Road should the amended residents parking scheme being proposed be rejected;
- Ashfield Road, Hawthorn Road and Tugela Road are areas where local residents are concerned about parking; and
- Residents parking near doctors surgeries.

Resolved

- 1) That a short report be produced detailing all aspects of parking in North Wiltshire including charging, residents parking, the work of Wiltshire County Council, personnel, a delivery plan for the next 15 months and the roles of the District Council, County Council and Implementation Executive.
- 2) That the Lead Member covering car parking be invited to the next meeting to answer questions on the parking and contribute to the discussion of the report.

O97. Cleansing & Amenities Improvement Plan

Consideration was given to Report No. 9, circulated with the Agenda, which gave an update on the review currently being undertaken by the Cleansing and Amenities Service Improvement Board.

Issues discussed included:

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- The purpose of the revised Cleansing & Amenities structure is to push management responsibility downwards;
- Schedules for street cleaning and litter bins are being tested and will be rolled out and publicised in April;
- The training of an additional road sweeper vehicle operative is taking place as a new vehicle has been procured;
- It is hoped that the website will be used to provide up to date information. An officer at the depot will be given responsibility for its update;
- Improvements in BVPI199a which is running at 13% in 2007/08;
- An emergency response team will be created specifically to clean up grot spots;
- Procedures for dealing with section 106 money is being reviewed, as the current method is not a joined up as it could be;
- The green waste scheme is running at a deficit of £50,000 a year. This is mainly due to the price being dropped from £30 to £25 to ensure adequate take up;
- The contracting out of play area maintenance will not happen at this time; and
- Changes to the C&A structure involve a one off £150,000 expense but should mean a £80,000 per year saving.

Resolved

- 1) That a list of playgrounds and open spaces for which the District Council has responsibility be produced and emailed to Committee Members.
- 2) That a report be produced for this Committee in early Autumn examining the effectiveness of the Improvement Plan.
- 3) That a report be produced for this Committee on the issue of the bulky waste collection service. Specifically detailing how much income the service has and how much the District pays to clear up the fly tipping of bulky waste.
- 4) That the Committee notes the efforts made to improve the Cleansing & Amenities Service.

O98. A Programme of Work for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Consideration was given to Report No. 10, circulated with the Agenda, which presented the Committee's Work Plan for consideration.

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Issues discussed included:

- The Household Waste & Recycling Report is likely to be presented to the February 28th Committee. The Committee considered how recommendations with financial implications could be included in the budget;
- Arrangements for dealing with Section 106 Agreements;
- The role of scrutiny in the Community Call for Action and the scrutiny of crime and disorder reduction partnerships;
- The future of leisure provision in the County; and
- The potential risks to the District Council in respect of the remaining contracts for the leisure centres and the Pound Arts Centre and the arrangements which the Council had in place to cope with those risks.

Resolved

- 1) That the Chair of the Household Waste & Recycling Task Group, in consultation with the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny, produce a non-committal statement outlining potential revenue expenditure arising from the Task Group Report. In order to allow the Executive to take account of potential financial implications from the Report when setting the budget.
- 2) To look in more detail at the handling of Section 106 arrangements in July 2008, to evaluate the effectiveness of changes made by that stage.
- 3) That a briefing paper be produced providing background information and current arrangements for dealing with Section 106 agreements.
- 4) That a briefing paper be produced on the new powers being given to overview & scrutiny; community call for action and the scrutiny of crime and disorder reduction partnerships.
- 5) That draft terms of reference be produced with a view to establishing a task group to examine the potential risks to the District Council in respect of the remaining contracts for the leisure centres and the Pound Arts Centre and the arrangements which the Council had in place to cope with those risks.

The meeting finished at 8.58pm.

There were 0 members of the public present.