

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2016 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Simon Killane (Chairman), Cllr Alan Hill (Vice Chairman), Cllr Glenis Ansell, Cllr Chuck Berry, Cllr Christine Crisp, Cllr Stewart Dobson, Cllr Howard Greenman, Cllr George Jeans, Cllr Jacqui Lay, Cllr Stephen Oldrieve, Cllr Tony Trotman, Cllr John Walsh, Cllr Bridget Wayman and Cllr Ian Thorn (Substitute)

Also Present:

Cllr Toby Sturgis and Cllr Philip Whitehead

65 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Jon Hubbard, who was substituted by Councillor Ian Thorn.

66 Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Resolved:

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2016.

That subject to amending the first use of 'landfill' to 'HRCs' in paragraph 9 of Minute 63, to approve and sign as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2016.

67 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

68 Chairman's Announcements

There were no announcements.

69 Public Participation

Statements on Minute 72 were taken under that item.

70 **Forward Work Programme**

Details were provided on meetings between Select Committee Chairman and the Executive to discuss future topics for scrutiny involvement such as further work on customer care feedback and projects involving utility companies. It was also intended to provide a legacy report on scrutiny achievements for the new council term in 2017, and proposed new feedback structures for project board representatives to provide greater scrutiny depth and assistance, as well as input into the Councillor Induction process for the new council term, particularly to ensure emphasis on area board roles.

Updates were also received on the activities of the Select Committees, including but not limited to the following:

Environment Select Committee

Details were provided on recent activities on topics as shown in the agenda, with further work on Waste Contracts, planning enforcement and fleet maintenance suggested.

Health Select Committee

Details were provided on recent activities on topics as shown in the agenda, with further work on air quality, the single view of the customer project, and performance of the 111 call service and effectiveness of the Older Person champions suggested. Concerns had also been raised on consultation regarding the adult care charging policy being considered by Cabinet, and it was proposed the Committee investigate upon its implementation to assess any impact. It was also stated some areas had discussed appointment of Carer champions similar to Older Persons champions, and whether this could be a model for other areas.

Children's Select Committee

Details were provided on recent activities on topics as shown in the agenda, with further work on increased academisation, including a special briefing on 21 June which focused on the government white paper: Educational Excellence Everywhere.

Resolved:

To note the updates from the Select Committees.

71 **Management Committee Task Group Update**

The written update from the Financial Planning Task Group was noted.

In respect of the Military Civilian Integration Partnership Task Group it was stated that due to a change in the lead army officer for the region, there had been delays, but the intention was to speak to the police and the army on further issues and report for the end of 2016 which would determine what work, if any, would be needed for the next council.

In respect of the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Task Group, its next meeting was to be 6 July 2016.

72 **Hydrocarbon Extraction**

At Council on 23 February 2016 a motion was received on hydrocarbon extraction following the granting of Petroleum Exploration and Development Licences (PEDL) in the county. The motion was referred to the Committee for its meeting on 1 March 2016, where it was requested officers undertake an investigation into hydrocarbon extraction, to include technical explanations, local and national policies and what functions are devolved to local authorities.

An initial presentation was received from Alistair Cunningham, Associate Director, Economic Development and Planning, on 24 May 2016, as well as seeking further direction from the Committee and the public in attendance on issues to be included within the briefing paper to be prepared following the officer investigation.

Councillor Toby Sturgis, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Development Management, Strategic Housing, Operational Property and Waste and Georgina Clampitt-Dix, Head of Spatial Planning, presented the briefing paper to the Committee.

The Chairman opened the item by reminding all present that the Committee was not a decision making body, and the briefing paper and discussion of it was not a debate on the merits of hydrocarbon extraction, but an explanation of the background, processes that needed to be followed, the role of the council as local planning authority and other bodies, as well as a review of the council's planning policies in the context of national policies.

The Committee thanked the officers for the extensive briefing that had been provided and welcomed the thorough explanation of the technical processes of hydrocarbon extraction and the council's role in the process. In response to queries it was stated regulatory organisations such as the Environment Agency would be responsible for assessing many issues such as impact upon the water supply. It was also stated that it was the councils' view that its existing planning policies on minerals and other planning matters adequately provided for dealing with any hydrocarbon extraction issues and it was not necessary therefore at the present time for a specific policy on that issue alone.

The likelihood of any extraction taking place within Wiltshire was raised given the geology of the county, and it was reiterated that although PEDL licences have been granted no application has been received to begin exploration.

Public representations were received from Bill Jarvis and Margaret Carvanna from KeepWiltshireFrackFree welcoming the detail of the report, although in light of the concern many held over the risks and potential high cost to the county financially and in health terms, they felt the council's current policies needed to be reviewed to ensure they were sufficient

A motion was moved by Councillor Alan Hill, seconded by Councillor Bridget Wayman, to note the excellent report from officers, that the report should be circulated to all councillors, and that the committee felt that no further scrutiny action as required at the present time, but that the committee be updated regularly. The motion was approved.

A motion was also moved by Councillor Stephen Oldrieve, seconded by Councillor Glenis Ansell, that a seminar for members be arranged to discuss the report in greater depth. The motion was not approved.

Resolved:

- 1) To note the written briefing on Hydrocarbon Extraction and thank officers for the excellent work in preparing it.**
- 2) That the report will distributed to all councillors as a members' briefing note.**
- 3) That no further scrutiny involvement be undertaken at this time, but that the Committee be updated as the situation changes so it can review whether further involvement is required**

73 **MyWiltshire System**

Following a request from the Environment Select Committee on 27 October 2015, on 5 January 2016 the Management Committee received a presentation on development of the MyWiltshire system, a system which enables the public and officers to remotely report a range of issues to be resolved, and which had primarily been utilised to date on highways matters such as reporting potholes and flytipping. Following an update at its meeting on 24 May 2016, the Committee resolved to seek expressions of interest for a Task Group to review and assist development of the MyWiltshire system, with the details of the terms of reference delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Alan Hill, presented the proposed terms of reference for the Task Group, along with several proposed members, with the intention that the Chairman and himself would appoint any remaining members if needed.

The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Councillor Philip Whitehead, emphasised that although most of the existing functions of the system was focused on highways matters, future development of functions could be in many other service areas.

Resolved:

- 1) To approve the proposed terms of reference**
- 2) To appoint Councillors Bob Jones MBE, Magnus Macdonald, Howard Greenman and Bridget Wayman to the Task Group, with any additional members to be appointed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.**
- 3) To arrange the first meeting as soon as possible**

74 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 6 September 2016.

75 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 10.30 am - 12.55 pm)

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