

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Monday, 18 January 2021 via WebEx.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee members present:

Councillors Ibison, Matthew Vincent, I Amos, R Amos, Ballard, Cropper, Fail, Leech, Longton, Minto and O'Neill

Apologies for absence:

Councillors C Birch and E Ellison

Other councillors present:

Councillors Henderson (left after item 5)

Officers present:

Emma Keany, Democratic Services Officer

Clare James, Corporate Director Resources and Section 151 Officer (left after item 5)

Garry Payne, Chief Executive (left after item 4)

Marianne Hesketh, Corporate Director Communities (left after item 7)

Marianne Unwin, Assistant Democratic Services Officer

No members of the public or press attended the meeting via WebEx.

25 Declarations of interest

None.

26 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on 23 November 2020 were approved as a correct record.

During discussions regarding the draft minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2020, it was proposed by Councillor Fail and seconded by Councillor Longton, that the wording that read:

"She also made reference to the fact that additional information had been requested for this meeting but that it, unfortunately, had arrived too late to be able to be distributed effectively amongst Overview and Scrutiny committee members before the start of the meeting."

Be amended and replaced with:

'She also made reference to the fact that additional information had been requested for this meeting and had said that "we now have the data and O&S need to look at this as part of their deliberations". Note- this was disallowed by the Chair prior to the start of the meeting.'

After being put to a vote, the proposed amendment was **lost** (3 votes for and 8 votes against).

It was then proposed by Councillor Ballard, seconded by Councillor Cropper, and subsequently **agreed** (8 votes for and 3 votes against) that the draft minutes submitted for the Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on 15 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

27 Business Plan 2021/22

The Corporate Director Communities, Marianne Hesketh, submitted a report on the Business Plan 2020-21.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor David Henderson, and the Chief Executive, Garry Payne, attended the meeting to present the report and responded to questions from committee members.

The Leader updated the committee on the current situation regarding the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic and on how it had affected the Borough.

He went on to explain that the Business Plan 2021/22 reflected a need to recover from the impact of the Pandemic.

Committee members asked questions regarding:

- the financial impact of Covid-19 on the Council,
- Amendments made to the Business Plan, in particular the Fleetwood Masterplan,
- The absence of a strategic narrative presented alongside the plan,
- And the Wyre Lottery.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Director Communities, the Leader and the Chief Executive for their update and attendance.

28 Treasury management

The Corporate Director Resources, Clare James, submitted a Question and Answers document to the committee regarding the Treasury Management Strategy and Policies.

Ms James introduced the document to the committee and answered questions from members.

Committee members asked questions in relation to the impact of Covid-19 on the Council's reserves and if there were any procedures for the additional

spending of reserves.

The Chair thanked Ms James for her participation and attendance at the meeting.

29 Business Plan – Quarterly Performance Statement

The Corporate Director Communities, Marianne Hesketh, submitted the 2nd Quarter Performance Statement 2020/21, July - September 2020 for the consideration of the committee.

Marianne Hesketh introduced the report and expressed her apologies for the delay in getting the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which she explained was a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

A number of questions and comments were put to, and answered by, Mrs Hesketh. Such as:

- The possible inconsistency to the fact that the Leisure Centre visits measure (MPE5) had been classified as red, but that the healthy choices and healthier lifestyles project (PPE1) had been classified as green;
- Any correlations between the projects and measures, and the possible requirement to make them even more consistent;
- The Fylde Coast Tramway;
- The revised timeframe for the new Wyre website to go live and;
- The review of the Wyre Local Plan 2011-2031.

The Chairman thanked the Corporate Director Resources for her report.

30 Update on Tourism and Visitor Services

The Corporate Director Communities, Marianne Hesketh, submitted a report to update the committee on Tourism and Visitor Services within the borough.

Mrs Hesketh addressed the committee, providing the background as to why the report had been requested. She also went on to answer questions from the committee.

A member asked for clarification on some of the budgetary figures and costs quantified in the report.

The Corporate Director Communities answered by stating that the report had provided a useful exercise as it had shown a few recharges which had caused a possible disparity between the Fleetwood and Garstang Tourism Information Centres and that she sought to progress with more work to better understand the reasons for this.

She also went on to inform the committee that Fleetwood Tourism Information Centre had been relocated into a Council owned property (Marine Hall),

resulting in the overhead costs decreasing.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Hesketh for her report and attendance.

31 O&S Work Programme 2020/21 – update and planning

The Corporate Director Resources, Clare James, submitted a report to update the committee about the delivery of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21.

The Democratic Services Officer, Emma Keany, provided the committee with a verbal update. She also explained that, due to time and resource constraints, committee members were being asked to establish a maximum of two Scrutiny Task/Review groups for the remaining period of the 2020/2021 work programme.

There were discussions by members of the committee over the two topics they wished to progress with. Members expressed desires to re-establish the District Environmental Enforcement Task Group, to establish a task group to review the YMCA partnership and to begin a review group for the pending results of a Scrutiny Review that had been carried out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

A vote was taken on whether to establish a YMCA Task Group, however the proposal was lost. Following this, the committee agreed to discuss the creation of the task group at the next meeting. The Chairman also requested that a scoping document be brought to the next meeting to highlight key areas from which a task group may be commissioned.

The Chairman also requested additional information be gathered regarding the date a Portfolio Holder decision was planned to be taken on the District Environmental Enforcement agreement.

It was **agreed** that the committee would establish the following task groups:

- A review of the Citizens Advice Services (4.3 in the report) and,
- A review of Wyre's Call-In procedures (4.4 in the report).

The meeting started at 6.01 pm and finished at 7.50 pm.

Date of Publication: 19.02.2021.