

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Monday, 7 November 2016 at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee members present:

Councillor I Amos	Councillor Jones
Councillor R Amos	Councillor Ormrod
Councillor E Anderton	Councillor Reeves
Councillor C Birch	Councillor Robinson
Councillor Fail	Councillor Matthew Vincent
Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor Michael Vincent (Chairman)
Councillor Ibison	

Officers present:

Garry Payne, Chief Executive
Rosie Green, Policy and Engagement Manager
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer

Others present:

Councillor Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council
Councillor McKay

35 Apologies for absence

None.

36 Declarations of interest

Councillor Ibison declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Local Plan) because a member of his family had submitted a substantial planning application.

37 Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 12 September 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

Strategic Narrative - Our Vision and Goals

Councillor Peter Gibson, Leader of the Council, introduced the Strategic Narrative, describing it as one of the best reports that he had read since joining the council.

The report described how the council would deliver its strategic goals, which included the essential element of increased commerciality, an approach into which officers were now buying.

Garry Payne, Chief Executive, said that it was important to develop a culture whereby the new approach would become embedded. Management Board took the view that all councillors should be involved in the culture change, hence the decision to bring the new vision document to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before it went to the Full Council. This approach was consistent with the core value 'one team one council'.

The point was made that in order to improve the lives of people in the borough improvements also needed to be made to transport, green infrastructure and health and wellbeing, matters that went beyond the direct responsibility of the council. Mr Payne responded by saying that it was important for the council to work in partnership, quoting Healthy Fleetwood as an example. Councillor Gibson referred to the improvements to the A585 proposed by Highways England. He suggested that the better the infrastructure the more developers who wanted to come to Wyre, so it was always important to get the balance right.

The comment was made that reference to a change of culture was very significant, and required the commitment of all officers and elected members in order to have the desired outcomes for the residents of Wyre. Councillor Gibson concurred with the point made, saying that the role of councillors in bringing about the change of culture was vitally important.

Mr Payne, in response to a further question, said that there were likely to be increased opportunities for the co-location of workers, perhaps with the police or with adult and children's services, and a flexible approach was necessary in order to reach as many members of the community as possible.

RESOLVED

- (i) That Councillor Gibson and Mr Payne be thanked for attending the meeting and for their presentation and comments, and
- (ii) That the report be noted.

(i) Together we make a difference in Wyre and (ii) Engaging with Communities - review task groups recommendations

The Chairman proposed and the committee agreed that Items 5 and 6 on the agenda be considered together, because of significant overlap between the

two.

Rosie Green, Policy and Engagement Manager, had submitted two reports, the first which detailed the findings and recommendations of a review of the council's 'Shaping Your Neighbourhood' (SYN) approach, the second which summarised how the recommendations of the 'Engaging with Communities' task group had been implemented.

On the basis of the first report, the Cabinet had agreed

- to disestablish the SYN programme including all grant functions and the Lead member role
- to a new approach to neighbourhood engagement in Wyre, as outlined in the report, to provide sustainable, cohesive and place-based solutions to resolve identified community priorities
- that community development and engagement technique training be provided for all Elected members.

There would be an emphasis on working together with partners to make things better for Wyre's residents. The role of ward members was very important and would be brought more clearly into focus by the new proposals.

Councillor McKay, who chaired the 'Engaging with Communities' task group, welcomed the new approach that had been outlined by Ms Green, which she said has been very much in line with the task group's thinking. At the time, however, the task group had to tailor its recommendations in order to bring them into line with the Business Plan, a point confirmed by Councillor Jones.

Ms Green went on to explain that councillors would be encouraged to bring forward higher level projects which would be scoped and costed by members of the engagement team.

RESOLVED

- (i) that Rosie Green be thanked for her report, and
- (ii) that the report be noted.

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Local Plan

Rea Psillidou, Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager, submitted a report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

41 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2016/17

Peter Foulsham updated the committee about the progress of three task groups on domestic abuse, food hygiene and Citizens Advice Services respectively. The Chairmen of the three task groups (Councillors Reeves, Jones and Robinson) also commented, confirming that all three reviews were on course to be completed within the next two months. It was likely that the domestic abuse review, which had been very active in the past month when meeting with a number of external organisations, would be completed early in the New Year.

Councillor Michael Vincent encouraged members of the committee to identify any topics for review between January and April 2017 and to bring proposals to the next meeting on 5 December for the committee's consideration.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

42 Date and time of next meeting

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the committee be held at 6pm on Monday 5 December 2016 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 6.38 pm.