



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

The minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of Wyre Borough Council held on Monday, 16 March 2020 at the Council Chamber - Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee members present:

Councillors I Amos, R Amos, C Birch, Cropper, E Ellison, Fail, Ibisson, Minto, O'Neill and Matthew Vincent.

Apologies for absence:

Councillors Ballard, Collinson, Leech and Longton.

Other councillors present:

Councillors Berry (left after item 4), Henderson (left after item 5) and Orme (left after item 4).

Officers present:

Peter Foulsham, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager
Neil Greenwood, Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety (left after item 4)
David Thow, Head of Planning Services (left after item 5)
Emma Keany, Democratic Services Officer

No members of the public or press attended the meeting.

7 Declarations of interest

None.

8 Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 27 January 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

9 Wyre Community Safety Partnership- annual scrutiny review

The Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety, Neil Greenwood, submitted a report regarding the Wyre Community Safety Partnership.

Mr Greenwood and Councillor Berry introduced the report and received

questions from the committee. There were questions regarding crime hotspots, the type of CCTV used, anti-social behaviour, neighbourhood policing, possible task group reviews, fly-tipping and the partnership between the council and the police.

It was requested that Mr Greenwood provide the committee with more information relating to anti-social behaviour in Wyre, with a focus on a possible task group review.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Environmental Health and Community Safety and the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder for their input and attendance at the meeting.

10 Small businesses and Wyre's High Streets

The Head of Planning Services, David Thow, submitted a report that highlighted the support Wyre Council provided to businesses and town centres.

Mr Thow introduced the report and received questions from the committee. There were questions regarding the possible focus and outcomes of a task group review, out of town developments, the possible involvement of the chamber of trades, business rates and how the council interacts with developers and businesses.

A discussion ensued around the scope of the possible task group review and whether a borough wide review was necessary or if the scope should be based on a more local scale, for example Fleetwood town centre. The Head of Planning Services stated that the scope could focus on vulnerable town centres in the borough. It was agreed that the scope and aim of the review would stay as detailed in the report at Item 5, appendix 1.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Planning Services for his input and attendance at the meeting.

11 Business Plan – Quarterly Performance Statement

The Corporate Director Communities, Marianne Hesketh, submitted a report on the 3rd Quarter Performance Statement 2019/20 (October-December 2019).

The committee indicated their concerns regarding the drop in leisure centre visits and stated that there was a need to monitor the statistics more closely. They also discussed the possibility of a task group review that would look into the YMCA contract and their vision for the future. It was agreed that the Corporate Director Communities would be asked for suggestions regarding the possible task group review.

Members expressed their thanks to the Corporate Director Communities for the additional information provided.

12 Resident Car Parking Permit Scheme Task Group – draft report

The Chairman of the Resident Car Permit Scheme Task Group, Councillor Lady Dulcie Atkins, submitted the task group's draft report and recommendations. In her absence, Councillor Ibison presented the draft report to the Overview and Scrutiny committee.

The Chairman (Cllr Ibison) thanked the Task Group for their thorough and useful review and welcomed comments from the rest of the committee.

Members of the committee conveyed their views regarding Blue Badge Holders and the fee that they would have to pay to take part in the Resident Car Permit Scheme. There were also discussions around the timing of the task group review, wider parking issues, the spaces available to blue badge holders and the need for more community based evidence. The committee also expressed their agreement with recommendations ten and eleven.

13 Leadership Essentials: Effective Scrutiny – feedback

Councillor Emma Ellison provided the committee with feedback from a LGA course she had attended. She mentioned how there was a heavy focus on work programming, the forward plan, lessons from other councils and spotlight reviews. However, her main recommendation from the course was to look at wider areas of influence such as obesity, social prescribing or well-being.

The chairman thanked Councillor E Ellison for her feedback.

14 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20 - update report

The Corporate Director Resources, Clare James, submitted a report updating the committee about the delivery of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2019/20. The Democratic Services Officer, Emma Keany, provided a verbal update to the committee.

The three task groups were discussed and it was highlighted that the Resident Car Parking Permit Scheme task group review had been submitted before the committee at this meeting and would go to Cabinet on the 25.03.2020, the Poulton to Fleetwood Link task group were to discuss their future and that the District Environmental Enforcement Pilot task group would hopefully complete their work by the end of May 2020.

Members of the committee were invited to give some more consideration to the possible contents of the O&S Work Programme 2020/21. There were several suggestions about possible topics such as a Citizens Advice Bureau spotlight review, anti-social behaviour, Marine Hall, the YMCA partnership arrangement, crisis management, business continuity and the councils' response to the coronavirus.

The Chairman thanked Clare James and Emma Keany for the report.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 7.57 pm.

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