

West Wiltshire District Council

Minutes

- Minutes of the:** Scrutiny Committee
- Held on:** Wednesday 18 July 2007
- Held at:** Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge
- Present:**
- Councillors:** Bryant, Burden, Carr, Hedley, Jenkins, King, Mudge, J Osborn(Chairman), Ridout, and Walker
- Also in attendance:** Cllrs Brown, Carbin, Conley, Martindale, Payne and Wiltshire
- Officers:** Corporate Director (IG), Policy and Communications Service Manager (PM), Leisure Manager (L M-B), Principal Lawyer (A A-P), Management Accountant (SH), Policy Officer (DK), Member Support Team Leader (PS)

40. Apologies and Membership of the Committee

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Blakemore, Parks and Seager.

41. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

42. Announcements from the Chairman

The Chairman said that following the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 13 June the recommendations regarding the Gasworks site at Bradford on Avon had been presented to Cabinet at their meeting on 4 July. It was resolved that the Council issues a formal apology for the maladministration that has occurred and report be made to the Planning Committee on:

- a) the outstanding enforcement issues and actions to be taken to resolve them
- b) the outstanding landscaping condition on the development and how it should be implemented.

43. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13 June 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

44. Leader's Update.

Questions from the committee had been sent to the Leader in advance of the meeting and the answers were tabled (attached). There were several further questions:

Question: Are we going to apply for a CPA reassessment?

Answer: No final decision has been made whilst the Local Government Restructuring is at the forefront. However once that is out of the way then we will review the position.

Question: What is happening elsewhere in respect of regeneration?

Answer: Ian Gallin provided an update on key developments in Trowbridge including the Waterside scheme, the former Wincanton site and the former Peter Black site. An overview was also given on regeneration projects in the five towns which were being supported through the Five Towns Initiative.

Question: What is the impact of Bowyers decision to move from Trowbridge?

Answer: It has been disappointing news. There will be a meeting on 20 July co-ordinated by the West Wiltshire Economic Partnership including officers from the District, County and Town Councils, Regional Development Agency, Job Centre Plus as well as the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Mounde and the local MP Andrew Murrison, to co-ordinate responses to the news and look at what support can be given to the employees.

Question: What is being done to improve the look of Bradford on Avon?

Answer: The litter feedback process is continuing and the street sweeping has been increased. Education is important and we will continue to work on improvements.

Question: What is the future of the District Council Offices?

Answer: There will be a report to the Cabinet in the autumn.

Question: What is happening regarding the poor service delivery of IT to Members?

Answer: This will be dealt with over the next few months. There have been both technical and data protection issues and both are the focus of our attention.

Regarding the development at St. Stephens Place, the Corporate Director offered to keep Members informed of the latest developments through MIS.

45. Leisure Portfolio Holder Update

Questions from the committee had been sent to the Leisure Portfolio Holder in advance of the meeting and the answers were tabled (attached). There were several further questions:

Question: What is being done for children in the school holidays?

Answer: There are several schemes being run and details have been sent to schools, advertised in the press and libraries.

Question: What is being done about smoking in play areas?

Answer: This has not yet been looked at.

Question: Could the cleaning schedule in Trowbridge Park be looked at with a view to cleaning in the mornings instead of at night?

Answer: This will be looked at.

46. Administration's Spokesman on Health Issues – update.

Cllr Mudge updated members of the committee on his role as the Council's representative on the County's Health Scrutiny Committee:

- 2 July saw the start of the Neighbourhood Teams and after a few setbacks most of these teams were now operational.
- Independent Treatment Centres – there were 2 planned for the area, one in Devizes and one in Bristol. These were privately owned and the planned date for commencement was 2008.
- There is a project in Salisbury called LIFT which is a PFI initiative aimed at improving patient care.

He asked that any Member who knows of any health or dental issues in their communities to contact him.

47. Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan

The Policy Officer presented the report and asked members of the committee to suggest items to add to the forward work plan.

RESOLVED:

It was decided that the following topics should be considered for further discussion:

- **Post Office closures**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Housing issues**
- **Waste recycling**

48. Local Government Ombudsman – annual report and letter

The Principal Lawyer presented the report detailing the key issues arising from the Local Government Ombudsman's report including the time taken to respond to requests for information from the LGO. This would be monitored by the Performance Group.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

49. Report of the Performance Group

Cllr Ridout updated members on the membership of the Performance Monitoring group. She informed the committee that she had been elected as Chairman and that the group would be meeting every two months. The membership of the group was reviewed and Cllr Bryant stood down and was replaced by Cllr Osborn. Cllr Ridout said that the group would be pro-active in improving performance and would be developing a forward work plan.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

50. Financial Monitoring

The Management Accountant presented the report and explained the details in each of the main sections of the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

51. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next ordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee would be held on Wednesday **19 September 2007** in the Council Chamber at the Council Offices, Bradley Road, Trowbridge at **7pm**.

(7.00pm – 9.30pm)

These minutes were prepared by Pam Sidgwick, Member Support Team Leader who can be contacted on 01225 776655 ext 204 or email psidgwick@westwiltshire.gov.uk