



Environment and
Services Scrutiny
Committee

26 September 2016

2.00 pm

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2016
2.00 - 3.45 PM**

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward
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Present

Councillor Vince Hunt (Chairman)
Councillors Ted Clarke, Nigel Hartin, Christian Lea, Pamela Moseley, Vivienne Parry and Arthur Walpole

12 Apologies for absence and substitutions

12.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean Carroll, Roger Hughes and Keith Roberts. Apologies had also been received from Councillor Mal Price, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment.

12.2 There were no substitutions

13 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

13.1 Councillors Clark, Moseley, Hunt and Parry declared interests as Members of Parish and Town Councils who were in discussions with the Council regarding their local libraries.

14 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2016

14.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2016 had been circulated.

14.2 RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Service Scrutiny Committee held on 13 June 2016 be agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

14.3 The Chairman advised Members that he had held a meeting with the Portfolio Holder and the Managing Director, Star Housing regarding the proposed task and finish group to look at the options appraisal and that he had been advised that the

options could not be drawn up until the government bill had received its second reading in September as changes were expected to the bill.

15 Public Question Time

15.1 There were no questions from members of the public

16 Member Question Time

16.1 There were no questions from Members

17 Portfolio Holder Update

17.1 As the Portfolio Holder was unable to be present a written update had been circulated.

17.2 The Chairman asked Members to email any questions arising from the report to the Committee Officer and these would be passed to the Portfolio Holder for response

17.3 The Chair of the Backbenchers Committee advised Members that the Portfolio Holder would be giving an update to the next meeting of Backbenchers.

18 Update on Libraries Activity

18.1 Members received the report of the Director of Commissioning which set out the progress made in redesigning the Library Service and the future approach to supporting the provision of a modern and sustainable library service.

18.2 The Commissioning Manager advised Members that the redesign of the service was progressing and that a report would be taken to Cabinet in July recommending the closure of the library at Shawbury and an alteration to opening hours at 11 libraries across the county.

18.3 A Member asked for an update of provision of library services in Church Stretton. The Commissioning Manager advised that the final court judgement had not been received yet but that work was ongoing with stakeholders to look at alternative solutions.

18.4 A Member asked what was happening to “back office” staff. The Commissioning Manager advised that the Council would continue to run the libraries in key market towns but were currently looking at alternative delivery model in order to reduce costs.

18.5 A Member expressed concern regarding the future of the mobile library service. The Commissioning Manager advised the meeting that it was not proposed to review the mobile library service until the management of the static libraries was finalised.

18.6 A Member asked whether consideration had been given to the roles of schools in delivering library services. The Library Service Manager advised that the schools

library service was run separately as a paid for service by the education department.

18.7 The Chairman thanked both officers for their report and for answering questions

19 Defra Waste Contract Management visit

19.1 The Waste Contracts Manager provided a verbal update and advised members that the recent visit by DEFRA had gone well however the report arising from the visit had not been received. It was agreed that once this had been received and finalised, a further report would be brought back to Committee

20 Outdoor Partnerships Update

20.1 The meeting received the report of the Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager which provided an update on the review of the Outdoor Partnerships team and the work carried out in the development of a future sustainable business model for the service.

20.2 The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager advised the meeting that the Outdoor Partnerships Manager had recently left the Council after taking voluntary redundancy and that the team had been restructured as a result of this. She informed Members that she had been appointed as the new Service lead as part of this restructure.

20.3 The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager advised the meeting that an Enterprise Plan had been drawn up for the Country Parks and Countryside Heritage Sites which included plans to raise income from these sites to contribute to the running of the sites, and outlined the work that was being carried out around this.

20.4 The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager advised that in addition to the Enterprise Plan, other work was being carried out to gain additional income including work to enable the Rights of Way Maintenance Team to develop income generating work, and that any income generated would be placed in a reserve account to build up funds that could be reinvested in work on major capital schemes outside of the existing budget.

20.5 A Member asked about the Healthy Outdoors Programme. The Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager advised that she was currently working with colleagues in Public Health to develop a programme of free outdoor activities.

20.6 A discussion took place around ways of raising income for the service. Suggestions included: -

- Adoption of sites by local organisations
- Development of a lottery
- Increasing the use of volunteers
- Investing in existing buildings to increase income for lettings and use of facilities such as restaurant's and gift shops

20.7 A Member commented that there was a role for town and parish councils in managing sites or in encouraging volunteering and use of sites.

20.8 The Chair thanked the Outdoor Partnerships Enterprise Manager for her presentation.

21 Date/Time of next meeting

21.1 Members were reminded that the Committee was next scheduled to meet on Monday 5 September 2016 at 2.00pm

Signed (Chairman)

Date: