



Environment and
Services Scrutiny
Committee

12 June 2017

2.00 pm

Item

Public

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2017
2.00 - 3.30 PM**

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward
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Present

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

54 Apologies for absence and substitutions

54.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Keith Roberts

55 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

55.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made

56 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2017

56.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2017 had been circulated.

56.2 RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee held on 23 January 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

57 Public Question Time

57.1 There were no questions from members of the public

58 Member Question Time

58.1 There were no questions from Members

59 Update on X75 Bus Route

- 59.1 The Transport Commissioning Group Manager advised the meeting that following further meetings with Powys County Council, funding had been secured to enable the service to continue until 2018 when there would be a retendering process for a new 5 year contract for the route.
- 59.2 Councillor Evans, the Local Member thanked Officers for all their work in securing the service which was vital for local people in his area.

60 Overview of Shropshire Homepoint - Housing Allocations

- 60.1 Members received the report of the Housing Services Manager which gave an overview of Shropshire Homepoint – housing allocations.
- 60.2 The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing, Regulatory Services and Environment informed the meeting that he had received several concerns regarding the Homepoint System during his annual report to Council. He stated that he had concerns as to whether the Council was meeting its obligations under the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 60.3 The Houses Services Manager advised the meeting that the total waiting list currently stood at 5,497 and that this broke down to: -
- Priority Status 138
 - Gold 833
 - Silver 1,890
 - Bronze 2,636

He informed Members that the average waiting time was 9 months.

- 60.4 The Housing Service Manager advised the Meeting that a working group had been set up comprising Officers and representatives of the Registered Social Landlords (RSL) to look at the Choice Based Lettings scheme and how it could work better, and that this was in the early stages of its work.
- 60.5 A representative of The Shropshire Housing Group commented that often there was a delay in lettings caused by suitable properties not being available to match the needs of Priority and Gold status tenants. She added that RSLs had little influence over policy.
- 60.6 A Member commented that there seemed to be a large requirement for one bedroom properties. The Housing Service Manager advised that this was largely due to a lack of one bedroom properties becoming available.
- 60.7 RESOLVED:

That the Committee note the allocations process and delivery of choice-based lettings by Shropshire HomePoint and request that a further update on the scheme be brought to the Committee in 12 months' time.

61 Street Works - West and Shire Permit Scheme

- 31.1 Members received the report of the Street Works Manager which set out the Annual Report of the West and Shires Permit Scheme (WaSP) giving details of its performance in the first two years of operation.
- 31.2 The Traffic Manager reminded Members that the West and Shires Permit Scheme (WASP) had been introduced in April 2014 and that the scheme enabled the Streetworks Team to be self-funding with income coming from a number of sources. He advised Members that that currently a surplus of nearly £230,000 was held in reserves and that this would be reinvested in the service, and that a review of charges was planned at the end of year 3 of the scheme.
- 31.3 A Member commented that there was quite a lot of income gained from financial penalties and asked how these arose. The Traffic Manager informed Members that penalties arose where schemes overran significantly or reinstatement was not to the correct standard.
- 31.4 The Chairman congratulated Officers on the success of the scheme.
- 31.5 RESOLVED:
 - That Environment & Services Scrutiny Committee note the publication of the WaSP Annual Report
 - That Environment & Services Scrutiny Committee receive the WaSP Annual Report for year 3 and the performance of the service in 2016-2017 at a later date in 2017.

62 Date/Time of next meeting

- 62.1 Members were advised that the Committee was next scheduled to meet on Monday 12 June 2017 at 2.00pm

Signed (Chairman)

Date: