



Place Overview  
Committee

6 March 2020

1.00 pm

Item

**3**

Public

**MINUTES OF THE PLACE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH  
2020  
1.00 - 2.45 PM**

**Responsible Officer:** Sarah Townsend  
Email: sarah.townsend@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257721

**Present**

Councillor Joyce Barrow (Chairman)  
Councillors Roy Aldcroft (Substitute) (substitute for Paul Wynn), Julian Dean, Rob Gittins, Simon Harris, Paul Milner (Vice Chairman), Pamela Moseley, William Parr, David Vasmer and Claire Wild (Substitute) (substitute for Dan Morris)

**53 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dan Morris and Paul Wynn. Councillors Claire Wild and Roy Aldcroft were in attendance as their substitutes.

**54 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

**55 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th January 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

**56 Public Question Time**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**57 Member Question Time**

Questions were received from three Councillors.

**From Councillor Julian Dean:** Councillor Dean was in attendance, although his question and response in relation to the proposed North West Relief Road was read out by the Chairman. A full copy of the question and response provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

**From Councillor Roger Evans:** Councillor Evans was not in attendance and his questions and responses in relation to WSP and Kier were read out by the Chairman. A full copy of the questions and responses provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

**From Councillor David Vasmer:** Councillor Vasmer was in attendance, although his questions and responses in relation to Kier were read out by the Chairman. A full copy of the questions and responses provided is attached to the web page for the meeting and also attached to the signed minutes.

## 58 WSP Annual Report

The committee received the report of the Interim Assistant Director of Infrastructure and Communities which summarised the annual performance report for the WSP contract for the 2018/19 financial year and built upon the previous report presented to the Committee on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

The Commission Manager for WSP was in attendance to present this item. The committee were informed of the work undertaken by WSP, the outcomes that had been achieved during the 2018/19 financial year and how they are monitored and scored against a number of key performance indicators.

It was noted that the WSP contract was considered to be positive and supported Highways and Transport staff and wider colleagues in the council (e.g. Economic Growth) across a number of agendas, issues, projects and outcomes.

During the 2018/19 financial year, WSP had requested payments to the value of £5,601,808.74, all of which were within financial resources and the minimum contract value is £2.5 million per annum.

During the discussion and responding to questions from the committee, it was explained that:

- By using WSP, the level of service and the cost for work is known to the Council upfront.
- It was a struggle to recruit talented staff.
- The amount of grant applications that had been bided for, had increased substantially in the last two years.
- Concern was expressed regarding the amount of work that WSP were doing when the Council was struggling financially.
- WSP had a strong, designated climate change team who would be happy to attend a future meeting of the Place Overview Committee to talk about this topic.
- Two members of Shropshire Council's flooding team had been recruited from WSP.

- The Much Wenlock Flood Alleviation Scheme had been inspected four times in the last month, including in the dark.
- In terms of the LED conversion programme on street lighting across Shropshire, a comment was made that some of the lights had either not been switched on or, had been missed. The Interim Head of Highways, Transportation and Streetscene responded that, whilst there might be some delays, he thought it likely that the programme would be completed earlier than the planned three years.
- Information relating to road safety / sustainable travel education (paragraph 17.2 of the report) would be considered at a future meeting of the Road Safety Task and Finish Group.
- Cycle routes into Shrewsbury town centre were being improved.
- The Interim Head of Highways, Transportation and Streetscene agreed to send a larger version of the report to Councillor David Vasmer.

The committee thanked officers for their hard work during the recent floods and commented that the support they had provided was exemplary. Officers were also thanked in relation to the work undertaken on the A529 and particularly, in keeping everyone informed regarding what was happening.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the Annual Performance Report for WSP for the 2018/19 financial year was considered by the Place Overview Committee.
- (b) That scrutiny note and comment upon the detail contained within the report as appropriate.
- (c) Scrutiny continues to receive an annual performance report on the WSP contract.
- (d) That a report detailing the supervision of the WSP contract be considered at a future meeting of the Place Overview Committee.
- (e) That WSP attend a future meeting of the Place Overview Committee to talk about climate change.

**59 Work Programme 2020**

The committee's work programme for 2020 was noted and the Chairman explained that Mr Malcolm Andrew, on behalf of Trefonen Rural Protection Group Management Committee, had requested that the committee consider adding the Local Plan to their work programme. The Overview and Scrutiny Officer commented that this had been considered by the Place Overview Committee on four occasions in the last two years.

Councillor Robert Macey was in attendance as Portfolio Holder for Housing and Strategic Planning and explained that the Local Plan would be considered at the May 2020 Cabinet meeting and also at a future Council meeting. In addition, he stated that information relating to the Local Plan was available on the Council's website and that several public consultations had been held.

Both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman declared that they would not take part in the voting as they both lived in Trefonen. On being put to the vote, it was agreed that

the Local Plan should be added to the committee's work programme and in particular, the global policies and global policy changes should be considered.

**RESOLVED:**

That the following items be added to the committee's work programme:

- The Local Plan.
- Marches LEP Plan – for consideration in April 2020.
- Response to the recent flooding (Councillor Kate Halliday to be invited) – for consideration in April 2020.
- Progress and scrutinising of the Highways Improvement Plan – for consideration in June 2020.

Members were informed that if anyone needed any advice regarding the recent flooding and particularly the disposal of household goods, they should call 0345 678 9006.

Councillor Julian Dean left the meeting at this point.

**60 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

A member of the committee questioned why the 'Kier Annual Report – Further Update' agenda item needed to be held in exempt session. The Director of Place responded that whilst he wanted to make the report as transparent as possible, there was currently an ongoing dispute.

**RESOLVED:**

That in accordance with the provision of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 (5) of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item.

**61 Kier Annual Report - Further Update**

The committee received the report of the Director of Place which provided members with an update on quality control procedures.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That the committee notes the Highways and Environment Term Service Contract and the measures in place by the Council regarding the checking and controlling of highway works.
- (b) That the committee receive a further update at their 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 meeting, regarding progress and the scrutinising of the Highways Improvement Plan and that the Highways Consultant attend this meeting.

*(The full version of minute 61 constitutes exempt information under Category 5 of Paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules and has accordingly been withheld from publication).*

<TRAILER\_SECTION>

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: