



<u>Committee and Date</u> Oswestry Local Joint Committee
3 December 2009
7.00pm

<u>Item/Paper</u>
4
Public

OSWESTRY LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE

**NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 DECEMBER 2009 AT 6.30 PM
IN WOODSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL, GITTIN STREET, OSWESTRY**

Responsible Officer Michelle Evans
Email: michelle.evans.lads@shropshire.gov.uk Telephone: (01743) 252727

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Mr Keith Barrow	Shropshire Council (Leader)
Mr Martin Bennett (Chairman)	Shropshire Council
Mr Bill Benyon	Shropshire Council
Mr Vince Hunt	Shropshire Council
Mrs Elaine Channon	Oswestry Town Council
Mr John Evans	Oswestry Town Council
Miss Betty Gull	Oswestry Town Council

Officers:

George Candler	Assistant Director, Learning and Culture, (Lead Officer)
Arren Roberts	Corporate Performance Improvement Officer (Support Officer)
Kate Garner	Team Leader, Community Regeneration (North)
Nicki Young	Community Regeneration Officer (North)
Cheryl Williams	Finance Manager, Corporate Finance, Resources
Hugh Dannatt	Group Manager, Transport & Highway Engineering
Colin Church	Delivery Manager – Site Services, Severn Trent Water
David Essex	Water Strategy Manager, Severn Trent Water
PC Morgan Nunns	West Mercia Police
Michelle Evans	Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services (Notes)

There were approximately 27 members of the public at the meeting.

1. Welcome, Introduction and Chairman's Statement

1.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Committee members.

2. Shropshire Council Budget 2010/11 Consultation

2.1 A presentation was given by the Leader of Shropshire Council and the Finance Manager, Corporate Finance (copy of presentation attached to signed minutes) in relation to the proposed Shropshire Council Budget for 2010/11.

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- 2.2 The Leader explained that consultations were being held around the County and he was interested to hear the views of the public on the proposed budget.
- 2.3 The Finance Manager highlighted the key messages which included protecting key services, consolidating the revenue budget and minimising pressure on the Council Tax. She informed the public that there would be a 0% increase in Council Tax for residents in Oswestry. She reported that savings of £7.1m would be required and that £2m had been set aside from 2010/11 budgets to offset any losses in central government grant. Service improvements would then come from capital investment.
- 2.4 She went on to highlight the service areas that Shropshire Council currently spent its budget on and explained that almost half of this was ring fenced by Central Government to be spent on education. She also reported how expenditure was funded, 22% of which was funded from Council Tax. She informed the meeting of the items that had been introduced in 2009/10 including concessionary fares and street cleansing. Provision had also been made to ensure the Council's housing stock met the Decent Homes Standard. She went on to give examples of the savings required to be delivered along with the key projects in the capital programme which included Oswald Park Leisure Centre in Oswestry.
- 2.5 The Leader explained that a number of extra care homes were being planned as although the ideal was to support people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, some people may need extra care. There would also be units for patients suffering from dementia and the elderly. It was suggested that an extra care facility be included in the new health centre in Oswestry.
- 2.6 In response to a query the Leader explained how Shropshire Council wished to reduce its carbon footprint by 20% in the next five years.
- 2.7 In response to a query the Leader confirmed that approximately 168 jobs had been lost following the move to Unitary and a system of vacancy management was being employed whereby vacant posts were not being filled if they were no longer required.
- 2.8 An interactive session followed, whereby members of the public were able to actively participate and give their views which would be taken forward and would impact on the final budget strategy.
- 3. Severn Trent Water**
- 3.1 A presentation was given by officers from Severn Trent Water on the planned mains renewal work in Oswestry – copy attached to the signed minutes. £1.1m was being invested in order to renew 6,000 metres of water mains in central Oswestry in order to ensure the delivery of a continuous supply of water and to reduce leakages.
- 3.2 Severn Trent Water wished to work with the community so that these works caused the least disruption and avoided planned events and busy tourist seasons.

- 3.3 It was confirmed that Severn Trent Water would be talking to the Council and other utilities in order that any other planned works could be co-ordinated. It was confirmed that trial holes and sampling would take place in early 2010. Once it had been established what work needed to be done, Severn Trent Water would hold exhibitions and consult with the local community to decide the best way of carrying out the work.
- 3.4 In response to a query, the Water Strategy Manager clarified why there had been a change in water supply in Oswestry. He explained that the supply of water in Oswestry now came from the Shelton works rather than the Llanforda works which were owned by United Utilities. Previously, Severn Trent Water had purchased a supply of water from United Utilities at commercial rates, which had been a lot more expensive for its customers. Severn Trent Water recognised that the way the new supply had been introduced had been handled badly and apologised.
- 3.5 He reported that the new borehole at Nesscliffe would be operational 24 hours a day from the following week and Oswestry would be getting a 50/50 blended water supply. In response to a query, he explained that hydro-geologists had done extensive survey work of the borehole and that the Environment Agency would only grant a licence if the borehole was sustainable.
- 3.6 Concerns were raised about the taste of the water and the efficiency of pumping water such long distances. It was confirmed that Severn Trent Water had reduced chlorine levels by 10% and that this would be monitored.
- 3.7 In response to a query, the Delivery Manager – Site Services confirmed that the planned works would take approximately five months to complete and would affect approximately 60% of properties. The Group Manager, Transport and Highways Engineering explained that the Highways Section had a duty to co-ordinate works on the highway and they would ensure that roads were not closed unnecessarily. The Delivery Manager – Site Services reported that three months notice would be given once a decision had been made on when the works would start.
- 4. New Street, Oswestry – Information Item**
- 4.1 The Group Manager, Transport and Highways Engineering informed the meeting of an enhancement project in New Street which would bring it up to the standard of the rest of the town centre. A flush surface was planned in order to provide better pedestrian movement. He reported that a consultation had taken place and most respondents supported the works. A brief discussion took place regarding the merits of block paving as opposed to Yorke Stone. In response to a comment that Yorke Stone quickly became dirty, the Group Manager explained that high pressure water cleaners were now being used in market towns.
- 4.2 The Group Manager asked members of the public their preferred option for parking restrictions in New Street and the majority felt that the restrictions as shown on the plan would be preferable.

5. Apologies for Absence

5.1 No apologies were received.

6. Declarations of Interest

6.1 No declarations of interest were received.

7. Notes of the previous meeting

7.1 **AGREED:** That the notes of the meeting held on 22 September 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

8. Feedback from Local Joint Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2009

8.1 The Support Officer introduced a paper – copy attached to the signed minutes - which provided an update on the points raised by members of the public following the presentations on Developing the Local Economy.

9. Community Regeneration Officer – Update on Current work

9.1 The Community Regeneration Officer explained her role and the work she was currently involved in which included the following:

- The Footfall Project whereby empty shops were being used to display art projects.
- Working with the Chairman of the Chamber of Trade on an event to re-launch the Chamber.
- Working with a Multi Agency team to identify ways to regenerate the Swan Lane and Castlefields area.
- Supporting Oswestry Access Group.
- Supporting applications to the Community Chest.

She informed the meeting that leaflets explaining how the public could get involved in their Local Joint Committees and about the work of the Community Regeneration Team were available should anyone wish to find out more.

10. Public Question Time and PACT Meeting (Partners and Communities Together)

10.1 The Chairman introduced PC Nunns, a local policing officer who updated the meeting on issues raised at the previous meeting as follows:

- Cycling on Pavements

PC Nunns reported that fixed penalty notices could be issued and advice had been given about the dangers of children cycling on roads.

- Dog Fouling

PC Nunns explained that fixed penalty notices could be issued but it was very difficult to enforce. The leader reported that the Council was currently putting together a zero tolerance policy for dog fouling and litter. It was felt that if irresponsible dog owners were prosecuted this would act as a deterrent to other dog owners. PC Nunns would ensure that CSOs engaged with dog owners.

The Team Leader, Community Regeneration (North) explained their work with Operation Protect which promoted crime prevention and suggested that along side this they could give practical help to dog owners by supplying dog bags.

10.2 PC Nunns invited members of the public to raise any issues of concern. Issues raised included:

- Police Station not open

PC Nunns confirmed that the front counter staff worked until 10pm however there was a telephone that went directly to the Police Station in Shrewsbury.

- Litter

PC Nunns explained that hot spot areas were targeted.

- Nuisance caused by non standard exhausts on a number of cars in Roft Street

PC Nunns explained that this was an on going problem. These type of exhaust pipes were illegal and the police could issue a warning if the vehicle was causing a nuisance. If the driver re-offended the vehicle could then be seized. PC Nunns advised the public to make a note of the registration numbers of these vehicles and report them to the Police.

11. Oswestry Community Chest

11.1 The Committee received the report of the Lead Officer – copy attached to the signed minutes – which considered the applications received by the deadline of 30 October 2009 and provided an update on the devolved budget.

11.2 An amendment was proposed to recommendation A that £1,000 be granted to the Oswestry and District Association for the Elderly to provide tea dances. The proposal was duly seconded, and, upon being put to the vote the amendment was agreed.

11.3 **It was therefore RESOLVED that:**

A - the Oswestry Local Joint Committee allocate funding to the following organisations and their projects:

£251.00 to Oswestry Senior Citizens Club – Kitchen / Club Building Project

£915.35 to Oswestry Pubwatch – Robocams

£1,000.00 to Oswestry and District Association for the Elderly – Dancing Sessions for the Elderly

£1,092.99 to Oswestry Online – Oswestry Online

£2,000.00 to Bromford Support and New Century Court – Activ8 and Motiv8

B – the Oswestry Local Joint Committee defers the decision on whether or not to fund the following project until the next meeting of the Committee on 8 March 2010:

£2,000.00 to Cambrian Heritage Railways Limited – Oswestry Station Platform

C – the Oswestry Local Joint Committee does not fund the following project:

£1,000.00 to Oswestry Twinning Association – 30th Anniversary of twinning with Comb La Ville

D – the Oswestry Local Joint Committee commits an additional £8,000 to the Community Chest fund leaving a balance of £30,000 of uncommitted funds in the Local Joint Committee’s devolved budget.

E - the Oswestry Local Joint Committee makes £2,000 available from its 2011/12 budget, once this is agreed, to the St Oswald’s Organ Restoration Appeal Fund Committee.

F – the Oswestry Local Joint Committee notes the application made by Oswestry Town Council for the restoration of the Powis Hall in Oswestry and notes the potential financial implication that this has for the Committees’ budget.

12. Date of Next Meeting

- 12.1 The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and informed them that the next meeting would be held at 7pm on 8 March 2010 in Holy Trinity CE Primary School, Oswestry.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____