



Communities  
Overview Committee

21 May 2018

2.00 pm

Item  
Public

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
21 MAY 2018  
2.00 PM – 2.59 PM**

**Responsible Officer:** Amanda Holyoak  
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**Present**

Councillor Cecilia Motley (Chairman)  
Councillors Nick Hignett (Vice Chairman), Ted Clarke, Rob Gittins, Nigel Hartin,  
Roger Hughes, Keith Roberts and Tina Woodward

**1 Election of Chairman**

Councillor Cecilia Motley was elected Chairman.

**2 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**

Apologies were received from Councillor Les Winwood.

**3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

Councillor Nick Hignett was appointed Vice-Chairman.

**4 Declarations of Interest**

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.

**5 Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2018 were confirmed as a correct record.

**6 Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

**7 Member Question Time**

There were no Member questions.

## **8 Preliminary Report on the Local Joint Committees Task and Finish Group**

The Chair reported on the activity and findings of the Local Joint Committee (LJC) Task and Finish Group. The Group had found there to be a very mixed picture in frequency of meetings and way in which LJCs operated across the County. The view from some LJC members had been 'we're not sure what we are for anymore' whereas others had found their own way and performed an important function locally. The annual grant that had previously been made to each Committee tended not to be used in a structured way but in piecemeal allocations to special interest groups which was not desirable.

The Group had felt that this mixed approach without a universal purpose would not work strategically in the long term but that the energy, enthusiasm and interest in some Committees was worth retaining.

Options for alternatives had been discussed, including Shropshire Association of Local Committees Area Committees and using Place Plan areas as a way of grouping committees to maximise locality working and carry out a place shaping role.

In addition to place shaping, other purposes for LJCs proposed included

- Specific grant schemes (eg Youth commissioning)
- Independent small grant schemes
- Utilisation of CIL funding
- Networking with Town and Parish Councils

The Chair referenced the feedback received from the recent Peer Review highlighting a need to strengthen the relationship between Shropshire Council and Local Councils and the need to take this into account in moving forward.

In conclusion the Committee agreed with the view of the Group that the LJC concept was generally supported but that clear function and role was needed.

Members discussed establishing a Task and Finish Group to consider a shape and format for the future, possibly with the Place Overview Committee. Other members felt this might be too complicated an arrangement. It was agreed that the Chair should make contact with the Chair of that Committee to discuss this idea, with a view to bring draft terms of reference back to the next meeting.

## **9 Update on Environmental Maintenance Grants**

The Locality Commissioning Manager reported that the consultation on Environmental Maintenance Grants had just ended. The Head of Infrastructure and Communities reported that Cabinet had delegated power to him with the Portfolio Holder for Highways and Transport to agree a way forward once the analysis of the consultation had been completed. Details of the new scheme would be circulated as soon as it was agreed.

## **10 Work Programme Update**

The Scrutiny Officer explained that there were two strands to the work programme including topics which had already been identified and were ongoing and the broader work of the entire Scrutiny Work Programme. This would help to ensure the best use was made

of valuable Committee time. The work programme would feature on each agenda in future.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: