

**Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
9 September 2014**

Present:

Councillor P.A. Broom (Chairman)
Councillor A.E. Friday (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

F. Ayers	C.A. Davis	I.T.E. Harvey
M. Bushnell	R.D. Dunn	M.W. Rough,
	D.L. Grant	

Apologies: Councillors C.M. Frazer, M.J. Madams, D. Saliagopoulos and S. Taylor.

In Attendance:

Councillor P. Forbes-Forsyth, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Young People, Leisure and Culture
Councillor N. Gething, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Fixed Assets
Councillor V.J. Leighton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Corporate Development

229/14 Disclosures of Interest

There were none.

230/14 Minutes

The Chairman advised the Committee that immediately prior to the meeting a member of public had raised an omission in the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2014. She explained that at the last meeting during the discussion with A2D (Minute 172/14 refers), Councillor T.J.M. Evans requested a statement from the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council on the Council's position with regards to any planning applications for housing on Kempton Park. The Committee agreed to consider the minutes of 8 July 2014 for approval at the next meeting.

Resolved to consider the minutes of the meeting of 8 July 2014 at the next meeting of this Committee following inclusion of reference to a request from Councillor T.J.M. Evans that a statement be issued by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council on the Council's position with regards planning applications for housing on Kempton Park.

231/14 Matters arising from the minutes

The Chairman advised the Committee that Cabinet would consider a report on Laleham Park at its meeting on 30 September 2014. The Committee would consider when and how to discuss the matter after this.

232/14 Call in of a leader, Cabinet or Cabinet Member Decision

No decisions had been called in.

233/14 Capital Monitoring

The Committee received an update on the capital expenditure against the budget position of the schemes within the capital programme for the period April 2014 to July 2014.

The Chief Finance Officer reported that £347k had been spent to date, which represented 24% of the revised budget. The projected outturn showed that there was an anticipated spend of £1.401m which represented 96.7% of the revised budget.

Resolved that the report of the Chief Finance Officer outlining the current capital spend and forecast position for the period to July 2014 be noted.

234/14 Revenue Monitoring

The Committee received an update on the net revenue spend and forecast outturn position at the end of July 2014.

The Chief Finance Officer reported that the forecast outturn at net expenditure level was £13.604m which resulted in a projected favourable variance of £17k, after taking into account the use of carry forwards.

Resolved that the report of the Chief Finance Officer outlining the current net revenue spend and forecast position for the period April to July 2014 be noted.

235/14 Leader's Task Groups

The Committee received updates on progress with the work of the three Leader's Task Groups looking at Economic Development, Fixed Assets and Environment and Waste.

Councillor Gething, in his role as Chairman gave an update on the progress of the Economic Development Task Group. He commented on the economic strategy, primarily the redevelopment of the Staines-upon-Thames riverside and progress with development of the Bridge Street car park site which is currently out to tender.

Councillor Leighton, in her role as Chairman gave an update on the work of the Fixed Assets Task Group. She reported that although there had been much progress since their last meeting in May, a number of matters had been delayed due to circumstances beyond the Task Group's control. She advised that work towards simplifying the tender process would be completed by the end of the year.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Environment and Waste Task Group, Councillor Broom explained that the Committee would receive a more detailed report on Laleham Park at its meeting on 4 November 2014 and any issues relating to the task group could be addressed then.

Resolved to note the work undertaken to date by the Leader's Task Groups.

236/14 Flooding Recovery - update

The Committee received an update from the Risk and Resilience Manager on progress with flooding recovery in the Borough. He outlined the work the Council was doing to assist Spelthorne residents to recover from the floods and prepare for future challenges.

The Committee was concerned about the likelihood of flooding again this winter and the measures the Council had in place to lessen the impact of such an event on residents and the Council.

The Risk and Resilience Manager assured the Committee that the Council had learnt from the flooding earlier this year and had already incorporated that experience in its future risk planning. However, the massive demands on Council staff for the emergency response had meant that steps had also now been taken to attract support from businesses and public bodies, who have a vested interest in preventative action, to encourage them to be involved in community engagement work. He explained that this was ongoing but that the Council was being successful in sharing some of the workload.

The Committee queried whether enough pressure was being put on the government to increase funding for the River Thames Scheme and on Thames Water and the Environment Agency to acknowledge their responsibilities to the community. The Risk and Resilience Manager assured the Committee that the Council was continuously engaged in urging the government for funding. He advised that the Council was establishing a Severe Weather Forum, which would act as a focus for community concerns and assist with the co-ordination of flood preparedness and mitigation work in Spelthorne.

The Chairman suggested a task group be established to work alongside the Risk and Resilience Manager and Cabinet Member for flooding on overseeing the recovery process. Councillors A.E. Friday, C.A. Davis and I. T.E. Harvey offered to work

Resolved:

- (1) to note the update on Flooding Recovery;
- (2) that Flooding Recovery be included as a standard item on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda for the foreseeable future with updates on three areas being paramount: the River Thames Scheme, Emergency Planning and community resilience;
- (3) that the Committee write to both Thames Water and the Environment Agency to ask them to send an update to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 November 2014 to explain their plans and actions, and

- (4) that a task group be set up to oversee the flooding recovery with members agreed as: Councillors A.E. Friday, C.A. Davis and I.T.E. Harvey.

237/14 Project Management – update

The Committee received an update from the Head of Customer Services, on Project Management. She addressed the Committee in her role as Project Coordinator and outlined the large number of flagship projects that the Council was undertaking. The main theme was the Council's work towards a sustainable future which involved the Knowle Green relocation, the move to agile working and document management.

The Committee requested the presence of the Head of Customer Services at the next Committee scheduled for 4 November 2014 to address the Committee on the risks associated with a sustainable future.

Resolved:

- (1) to note the update report on Project Management and;
- (2) that the Head of Customer Services attend the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 November 2014 to address the Committee on work towards a sustainable future.

238/14 Cabinet Forward Plan

The Committee received the Cabinet Forward Plan.

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

239/14 Work Programme

The Chairman confirmed that she was working with the Vice-Chairman and officers to draw up a work programme from the ideas generated at the last meeting of the Committee.

She asked members to contact her if they had any further thoughts on topics they would like to see included.

Councillor C.A. Davis requested that the Committee look at Partnership arrangements at a future meeting.

Resolved to:

- (1) Include an item on the next committee agenda focusing on the internal progress of a move towards a sustainable future.
- (2) add an item on the future work programme on Partnership arrangements.

240/14 Any other business

No other business was reported.