

MINUTES of the meeting of General scrutiny committee held at Council Chamber, The Shire Hall, St Peter's Square, Hereford, HR1 2HX on Monday 2 July 2018 at 10.15 am

Present: Councillor WLS Bowen (Chairperson)
Councillor BA Baker (Vice Chairperson)

Councillors: SP Anderson, JM Bartlett, JF Johnson, A Warmington and SD Williams

In attendance: Councillor AJW Powers

Officers: J Coleman - Democratic Services Manager/Statutory Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor AW Johnson.

2. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Councillor JF Johnson substituted for Councillor AW Johnson.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2018 be approved as a correct record.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A copy of the question and answer received is attached at appendix 1.

6. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

None.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

The committee reviewed its work programme.

The principal issues for discussion were as follows:

Hereford Transport Package Options – Phase 2

There was a consensus that the Committee should undertake pre-decision scrutiny of this matter. It was observed that in doing so it would be important to ensure that there was consistency between the papers submitted to the Committee and those to be presented to Cabinet.

Several questions submitted by members of the public for consideration by the Committee had been redirected to Cabinet. Clarification was sought on how these would now be treated given the intention to undertake pre-decision scrutiny. It was noted that this would be brought to the Monitoring Officer's attention.

Membership of Minerals and Waste Panel

Councillor Williams indicated that he would like to serve on the Panel.

Task and Finish Group – Highway Maintenance – Pothole Repairs

There was a consensus that a group should be appointed to undertake this review.

Councillors Baker, Bowen and Williams indicated that they would wish to serve on the Group. It was agreed that group leaders be invited to nominate one further member from their group to serve if they were interested in doing so.

Members emphasised the significance of this issue to local communities and authorised the Statutory Scrutiny Officer, following consultation with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to amend the scoping statement appended to the report to reflect their wish that this should be a thorough exercise that involved consultation with Town and Parish councils.

Consideration of Matters raised at the scrutiny workshop

A number of suggestions for scrutiny had been proposed at the scrutiny workshop on 4 June. A commentary on these proposals and a proposed course of action was set out at appendix 2 to the report.

The Committee's consideration of these suggestions is set out in appendix 2 to these minutes and the work programme amended accordingly.

RESOLVED:

- That**
- (a) the draft work programme as set out at appendix 1 to the report be approved, subject to taking account of the decisions reflected in appendix 2 to these minutes;**
 - (b) Councillor SD Williams be appointed to serve on the Minerals and Waste standing panel; and**
 - (c) (i) a task and finish group on highway maintenance – pothole repairs be established to undertake the work outlined in the draft scoping statement (Appendix 3 to the report), subject to the Statutory Scrutiny Officer being authorised to amend the statement following consultation with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to reflect the committee's request that the review include consultation with Parish and Town Councils; and**
 - (ii) Councillors Baker, Bowen and Williams be appointed to serve on the group and group leaders each be invited to nominate one further member from their group to serve if they were interested in doing so.**

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 18 July 2018 at 10 am.

Monday 10 September 2018 at 10.15 am.

Appendix 1 - Public Question and Answer

Appendix 2 - Outcome of consideration of suggestions for scrutiny proposed at the workshop on 4 June

The meeting ended at 11.55 am

CHAIRMAN

PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO GENERAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2 July 2018

Question 1

J Lagoutte - Hereford

Please could you provide some clarification under the item 'Use of Green space – keeping people well and looked after'. Comments read "Currently work is progressing on technical work to enable a housing/employment site options consultation to be undertaken later in the summer". What does this mean? Does it mean the council is considering building on green spaces?

Response

The Core Strategy contains a county wide policy which applies when development proposals are advanced on areas which would constitute open space (policy OS3). The Hereford Area Plan (HAP) will be able to identify important open spaces on the policies map (an OS base map) and may include more detailed policies for open spaces if necessary. Work is ongoing to examine the qualitative and quantitative need for open space in Hereford as part of developing the evidence for the draft plan.

In respect of the housing/employment land site options consultation it is important that all options are considered at this stage in the process and the sites identified in the consultation document originate from a range of sources, including officers, members of the public, landowners and developers. The site options are likely to include a number of open spaces.

However, at this stage all sites which form part of the consultation remain as "options" and not "proposals". The context for consideration of the merits of any open space site for inclusion as a preferred/draft plan allocation (following the consultation) will include consideration of its current role and function, compliance with Core Strategy policy OS3 and the development of the evidence outlined in the first paragraph (above).

Outcome of consideration of suggestions for scrutiny proposed at the workshop on 4 June

New items suggested by Councillors	Response
Keepmoat Homes Ltd and Engie Regeneration Ltd Contracts (Also suggestion of importance of good design as per council motion 7 March 2014.)	Presentation is to be given to all Members on the contracts. Consider whether any issues warrant scrutiny following that seminar (at which standards inc design) could be addressed.
LGA peer review – consideration of executive response (Note request: scrutiny of the relationship between HC and the parish councils in the light of the recommendations of the LGA peer review.)	Corporate peer challenge – report on cabinet agenda - 28 June. Add to work programme.
Water Quality – (mindful of role of Nutrient Management Board)	Update seminar for Powys and Herefordshire members to be held. Await outcome of seminar.
Planning enforcement – consistency /S106 agreements	Briefing note requested.
Use of Green space – keeping people well and looked after – note CCG interest in this	Considered this was a county-wide issue. Clarification to be sought.
Commissioning and procurement	Briefing note requested.
Policing – checking policing cover given shift of resources by PCC to urban setting	Clarify respective roles of Police and Crime Panel and Scrutiny Committee. Subject to that, Issue invitation to police and Crime Commissioner to attend.
Scrutiny of the traffic management in and around Commercial Street/Aylestone Hill	No Scrutiny consideration at the current time but kept under review.
Council's policy on roadside verges grass cutting and what changes in policy may be appropriate.	Briefing note requested.
Annual review of earmarked reserves	Following consideration by cabinet on 28 June, agreed briefing note would be prepared on progress.

