



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Minutes

Notes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday 9 November 2015 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

Committee members present:

Councillor R Amos	Councillor Ormrod
Councillor E Anderton	Councillor Reeves
Councillor C Birch	Councillor Robinson
Councillor Fail	Councillor Smith
Councillor Hodgkinson	Councillor Matthew Vincent
Councillor Ibison	Councillor Michael Vincent (Chairman)
Councillor Jones (Vice Chairman)	

Other councillors present:

Councillor I Amos	Councillor R Duffy
Councillor M Anderton	Councillor Greenhough
Councillor Beavers	Councillor Murphy
Councillor I Duffy	Councillor Shewan

Officers present:

Michael Ryan, Corporate Director of People and Places
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer

There were twelve members of the public present and one representative of the press.

OS.48 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McKay.

OS.49 Declarations of interest

In relation to agenda item 5, (Local Plan) Councillor Fail advised the committee that he had submitted a response to the consultation on the Local Plan.

OS.50 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 12 October 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

OS.51 Call in: Coastal Community Fund – Five for Fleetwood

With the agreement of the committee the order of the published agenda was changed and this matter was considered first.

Cllr Ruth Duffy reminded the committee about the original projects that were included in the Five for Fleetwood initiative. She said that £20,000 of the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) allocation had been spent on the replacement of windows at Fleetwood swimming pool, which formed part of the splash pad area, in addition to which there was an underspend of approximately £175,000 all of which should be spent on delivering the five original projects. She added that, in her opinion, it was inappropriate to spend the money on building ten beach bungalows whilst there were still some issues requiring attention.

Cllr Ruth Duffy gave a short pictorial presentation in which she suggested where the balance of the CCF monies should be spent.

She went on to allege that there had been no engagement or consultation with local residents or with Fleetwood councillors about the proposal to build ten beach bungalows.

In addition to the points already made, Cllr Ruth Duffy informed the committee that she had misgivings about the proposed location of the beach bungalows, which would be to the detriment of the iconic colonnade at the Marine Hall.

Cllr Ruth Duffy urged the committee to ask the Portfolio Holder to re-consider his decision.

Councillor Murphy (Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder) and Michael Ryan (Corporate Director of People and Places) responded to the points made by Cllr Ruth Duffy.

Michael Ryan said that the developments around the Marine Hall in Fleetwood had been designed to encourage people to come to Fleetwood, and were not simply for the residents of Fleetwood. In a relatively short period following the opening of the splash pad on 9 August it had been estimated that 10,000 visitors had been attracted to the area. Mr Ryan confirmed that consent had been obtained from the funders for the beach bungalows – the final element of the programme.

Several alternative locations for the beach bungalows had been considered but none had been appropriate, and one would have been prohibitively costly.

It was understood that the government was likely to extend CCF funding up to the spending review of 2020/21; Wyre Council had shown that it was very successful at attracting external funding so it was essential to continue to demonstrate that it would deliver positive outcomes.

Mr Ryan circulated some photographs of the first beach bungalows that had been erected and argued that they enhanced the appearance of that part of the promenade. He also assured the committee that the beach bungalows would be advertised shortly with the aim of obtaining lease holders for them prior to construction.

The Portfolio Holder and the Corporate Director of People and Places were questioned by the committee about a wide range of matters directly related to the call in.

One councillor expressed concern about the apparent lack of consultation that had taken place with local residents and Fleetwood Town Councillors. The point was made that the original report could have been more detailed and hence more informative for councillors and the public.

Councillor Murphy confirmed that there had been consultation about the original Five for Fleetwood scheme. Michael Ryan added that the council had prioritised the allocation of resources to the whole of the sea front area, which had been responsible for encouraging many more visitors to Fleetwood. The council would continue to dedicate resources to fund improvements.

The committee retired to a separate room to discuss and consider the representations made, and returned to the council chamber to announce their decision.

The Chairman, Councillor Michael Vincent, said that there had been a very constructive discussion about the issues that had been raised. The committee had discussed, in particular, the council's financial position and the emphasis on ensuring the sustainability of future services.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the call-in be dismissed
- (ii) that the original decision of the Portfolio Holder be implemented with immediate effect

OS.52 Performance – the Council's Business Plan 2015/16

The Head of Transformation, Marianne Hesketh, submitted a report on the 2nd Quarter Performance Statement 2015/16, July to September 2015.

It was noted that the project on the Local Plan had been flagged as having

minor issues for six quarters in a row. Further reference would be made to this under the following agenda item.

The question was posed as to whether the project entitled 'Engagement Campaign – working with Elected Members, Parish and Town Councillors and our communities' was appropriately flagged as green, and on target. The Chairman indicated that the progress of that project, like all others, was always under review and could change if the evidence supported that.

The suggestion was made by one member that there should also be a measure of activity in support of the two measures on obesity.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

OS.53 Local Plan

Rea Psillidou, Planning Policy and Economic Development Manager, submitted an update report on the progress of the Local Plan.

It was acknowledged that there had been several factors beyond the control of the council that had contributed to delays in the completion of the Local Plan.

Michael Ryan, Corporate Director of People and Places, informed the committee that legal advice had recently been taken on a number of matters. It was recommended that further work was required to ensure that the housing figures included in the Plan were backed up by reliable evidence. References to gypsies and travelling show people and sections about development in flood areas also needed attention.

Mr Ryan confirmed that despite these needs for attention, the timetable as detailed in Ms Psillidou's report remained valid. Further advice would be taken from a barrister as necessary.

RESOLVED

(i) that a further update report be submitted to the committee in February 2016, and

(ii) that the report be noted.

OS.54 Enterprising Wyre

The Planning and Economic Development Portfolio Holder, Councillor Pete Murphy, informed the committee that a bid for Enterprise Zone funding had been made to government which, if successful, would have a significant impact on economic development in the borough. A decision was expected by the end of November.

RESOLVED that a report on progress be considered by the committee on 11 January 2016.

OS.55 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2015-16

The Chairman introduced the report that had been submitted by the Corporate Director of Resources. He confirmed that he would like to commission a task group to review how the council could engage more effectively with communities in areas that were not parished. He suggested that such a review should be focused on specific groups such as community groups or agencies that worked with older people, for example.

The Chairman added that he would like the committee to commission a task group review on a health-related topic, although such a decision would not be taken until the report from the task group on Clinical Commissioning Groups had been considered by the Cabinet in January 2016.

RESOLVED that the committee scope a task group review of engagement with communities and agencies in parts of the borough that were not parished at the next meeting on 7 December 2015.

OS.56 Date and time of next meeting

RESOLVED that the next scheduled meeting of the committee be held at 6pm on Monday 7 December 2015 at the Civic Centre, Poulton-le-Fylde.

The meeting started at 6pm and finished at 8.02pm.