

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee** held in the **Ditchling Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes** on **Thursday, 8 September 2016** at 10.00am

Present:

Councillors P Gardiner (Chair), S Adeniji, J Carter, J Harrison-Hicks, V Ient, I Linington, R O'Keeffe MBE, S Osborne, and J Peterson

Officers Present:

J Harper, Head of Business Strategy and Performance
S Harvey, Strategic Performance Officer
J Norman, Committee Officer

Minutes

11 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

12 Apologies for Absence/Declaration of Substitute Members

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor N Enever and Councillor C Sugarman.

13 Urgent Items

The Chair advised that he had agreed that, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, a proposal that had been received from Councillor Ient relating to the reduction in train services between Lewes, Newhaven and Seaford, and on the remaining routes to and from Lewes be considered as a matter of urgency.

14 Invitation to Department of Transport and Govia/GTR

The Chair reported that a proposal had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 14 by Councillor Ient which related to the issues regarding reduction in train services between Lewes, Newhaven and Seaford, and on the remaining routes to and from Lewes. Councillor Ient proposed a meeting between the Scrutiny Committee, the Department of Transport, and

Action

Govia/GTR to discuss the issue. The proposal was circulated to Councillors at the meeting.

Following a discussion at the meeting, a revised version of the proposal to that which was circulated at the meeting was amended to read as follows:

“That the Scrutiny Committee of Lewes District Council invite both the Department of Transport and Govia/GTR to attend a meeting with members of the Scrutiny Committee so that they can present their plans to significantly reduce train cancellations and late trains. The results of the meeting to be reported to Cabinet.”

The Committee also discussed a wider review of the impact of all available transport options within Lewes District and their effect on the local economy. The Committee suggested that its work programme look at the impact of current available transport in the Lewes District. The Head of Business Strategy and Performance advised the Committee that a draft scope for a potential scrutiny review could be drawn up by the Officers and would be brought back to the Committee for consideration.

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Resolved:

- 14.1** That the Department of Transport and Govia/GTR be invited to attend a meeting with members of the Scrutiny Committee;
- 14.2** That the results of the meeting between the Scrutiny Committee, the Department of Transport, and Govia/GTR to be reported to Cabinet; and
- 14.3** That Officers prepare a report setting out a draft scope for a potential scrutiny review relating to the impact of available transport options within Lewes District and their effect on the local economy, for consideration at a future meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

HBS&P

HBS&P

15 Portfolio Progress and Performance Report 2016/17

The Committee received Report No 109/16 which detailed the progress and performance in respect of key projects and targets for the first quarter of the year (April to June 2016 (Quarter 1)), as shown under Appendix 1 of the Report.

The Committee discussed various aspects of the Report and sought clarification from Officers on the following;

- Regarding the Devolution of Open Spaces Project on page 21 of the Agenda, the Committee asked for the current status of the work relating to Lewes. Officers agreed to provide a written response.
- Regarding staff sickness, the Committee was encouraged to seek further detailed information from the Employment Committee Agendas.
- The Committee queried why no target had been set for recycling. Officers clarified that targets would be set once decisions on the future of the waste collection/recycling service had been taken later in the year.

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- The Committee queried why no indicator relating to housing completions was included in the Report. Officers clarified that this would be provided on an annual basis in future.
- Regarding complaints made to the Council during the reporting period, as set out in paragraph 6 of the Report, the Committee asked about the time taken to deal with complaints where these were not responded to within 2 days. Officers agreed to provide a written response.
- The Committee requested more information about the works underway in the North Street Quarter Project. The Officers agreed to provide a written response.

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- 15.1** That Report No 109/16 be noted.

16 Forward Plan of Decisions – 1 September 2016 to 31 December 2016

The Committee received the Forward Plan of the Council, as set out under pages 23 to 32 of the Agenda.

Resolved:

- 16.1** That the Forward Plan of the Council for the period from 1 September 2016 to 31 December 2016 be noted.

17 Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016/17

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2016/17, as set out on page 33 of the Agenda.

It was noted that the current scrutiny review of Housing Supply and Demand would report to Committee in two phases. The first phase would relate to the forthcoming consideration by Cabinet of the establishment of a housing company and would be reported in November. The second phase would consider the wider implications of the Housing and Planning Act and would be rescheduled at a time relevant to the introduction of the Act.

A Member suggested that the Committee consider undertaking a scrutiny review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. It was noted that a review of the scheme was already planned. Officers were asked to investigate the timing and scope of that review, so that the Committee could consider whether it should take a role in the review process.

Resolved:

- 17.1** That the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016/17 be agreed.

18 Date of Next Meeting

The Head of Business Strategy and Performance highlighted that the timing of the next Scrutiny Committee meeting scheduled for 17 November 2016 posed a problem in terms of reporting to Cabinet which was due to be held the day before the next scheduled Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 16

November 2016. As a result, it was agreed that the next Scrutiny Committee Meeting be moved to an earlier date in November 2016 in order that the outcomes of the Meeting would be reported to Cabinet in time.

Resolved:

- 18.1** That the next scheduled meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to be held on Thursday, 17 November 2016 be cancelled; and
- 18.2** That the Head of Business Strategy and Performance be requested to contact Members of the Scrutiny Committee to schedule a new date.

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note

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The meeting ended at 11:38am.

P Gardiner
Chair