

Minutes of a Meeting of the Overview Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 17 November 2015

Attendance list at end of document

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.00pm.

***14 Chairman's introduction**

The Chairman welcomed the committee members to the meeting

***15 Public speaking**

There were no public speakers at this point of the meeting.

***16 Minute confirmation**

The minutes of the Overview Committee held on the 22 September 2015, were confirmed as a true record.

***17 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Graham Godbeer declared a pecuniary interest in item 22 below as he undertook some veterinary work for the Environmental Health Service.

***18 Draft Council Plan 2016-2020**

Members received the Draft Council Plan 2016-2020 that was presented to members by Councillor Tom Wright and Karen Jenkins – Strategic Lead Organisational Development and Transformation, following work undertaken by the Corporate Business Think Tank. The Draft Council Plan 2016-20 incorporated a new council ambition, 4 key priorities and actions, which were:

- Encouraging communities to be outstanding;
- Developing an outstanding local economy;
- Delivering and promoting our outstanding environment;
- Continuously improving to be an outstanding council.

as well as refreshed council values.

It was recognised that the Council Plan was a pivotal document, which set out the context of travel and key priorities for the council's staff and its members for the next term. It was an important document for informing our residents, visitors, town and parish councils, businesses and other partners about the Council's key priorities and how and where the Council would direct its financial and other resources.

Debate on the issue also included:

- Importance of supporting communities in East Devon;
- Opportunity provided for improved economic performance through the Council Plan
- Endorsement of the primary importance of neighbourhood local plans;
- Need for improved sports and recreation provision in East Devon;
- Speed of action and the need for sense of urgency should be portrayed;
- The Council Plan would be refreshed every 2 years;
- The main aims of the draft Council Plan fitted in well with the Greater Exeter agenda.

Councillor Tom Wright wished to thank members of his Think Tank and Karen Jenkins for the work they had undertaken on preparing the draft Council Plan 2016 – 2020.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report and the comments made at the meeting be noted and incorporated into the draft Council Plan, including endorsement of the importance of neighbourhood local plans.

19 Exmouth Beach Management Plan

The Committee received a report from John Golding, Strategic Lead – Housing, Health and Environment, which invited them to consider and recommend the adoption of the Beach Management Plan for Exmouth.

The Chairman welcomed Alan Frampton from ch2m, who provided a report on the extensive technical work making up the Plan and which underpinned the recommendations made in respect of future management and maintenance of the beach, and hard engineering structures that maintained coastal protection.

The BMP recognised the importance of the Exmouth beach in terms of the amenity and coastal defence properties and outlined the ways in which the Council could manage and protect the beach and coastline. The BMP set out the management regime for Exmouth Beach for the next 5 years. In response to a question, Alan Frampton confirmed that Beach Management Plans (BMP) and Shoreline Management Plans (SMP) were produced for different reasons and the SMP was the more important of the two.

Debate on the issue included:

- Concern expressed over the future flooding of parts of Exmouth and that Pole Sands were being eroded. The sands were considered to protect Exmouth from flooding;
- Lack of local opinion obtained for the BMP;
- Dredging of Pole Sands could have an adverse impact upon Exmouth Beach;
- Concern expressed regarding difficulties in finding suitable funding sources for the work.

RECOMMENDED

that the draft Exmouth Beach Management Plan be adopted and the management, maintenance and monitoring recommendations be implemented, subject to concerns about obtaining funding sources for the work.

***20 Environmental Health Service**

Members noted that the Council's Environmental Health Services regulated a range of environmental and behavioural areas that helped people in East Devon to live in, work in and enjoy this outstanding place. The services underpinned a reasonable standard of wellbeing for all residents of East Devon; much of the day to day work of the service went unseen by the majority. The annual report for the service set out just how much the service did behind the scenes to prevent problems and where problems did arise how hard they worked to overcome these.

A member of the Committee expressed concerns about the lack of visible presence in East Devon of Dog Wardens to deter dog fouling. Andrew Ennis - Environment Health and Car Parks, reported on the success of dog bins in East Devon and that reports of dog fouling had reduced greatly in recent years, due to more responsible dog ownership.

RESOLVED

that it be recognised that the health, safety and wellbeing of our residents, workers and visitors were being safeguarded by the work of our Environmental Health teams. In particular to note that they continued to: inspect food businesses and investigate complaints about the safety of food; resolve complaints about workplace health and safety and promote good practice; investigate infectious diseases and prevent their spread within the community; prevent and control environmental pollution including the control of smoke, odours, flies and noise; promote and enforce public health and pest control legislation; provide advice on the likely impact of new development and on a variety of licensing matters; develop the Council's new permanent in-house pest control and dog warden services alongside a range of other duties including reporting bathing water quality and arranging funerals (where no other arrangements are being made to dispose of the body of a deceased person in the district).

21 Environmental Health Licensing Policy

Members received the report of Andrew Ennis, Service Lead - Environment Health and Car Parks, which sought Members' endorsement of the restrictions placed on residents running a business of home-boarding for other people's dogs and of the proposals for the proper regulations of new businesses providing day-care for other people's dogs.

The Committee noted that there were currently over 30 dog home boarders licensed in East Devon and it was likely that there were more than this unregistered

RECOMMENDED

1. that Cabinet considers and recommends to Council to formally adopt the conditions for home boarding of dogs as set out in Appendix A to the report;
2. that Cabinet considers and recommends to Council for formal adoption the conditions for Dog Day Care facilities set out in Appendix B to the report;
3. that Cabinet considers and recommends to council the enforcement policy set out in Appendix C to the report.

22 Local Government Boundary Committee for England Electoral Review Update

The Committee considered the report of Mark Williams, Chief Executive, on the results of the member survey that the Committee had agreed should be carried out at its meeting on 22 September 2015 (minute 11 refers). Members noted that the response rate from EDDC Councillors to the survey was only 47%. Mark Williams, Chief Executive, reported that a further report on this issue would be made in February/March 2016.

RESOLVED

that the results of the member survey be noted.

RECOMMENDED

that it be recommended to Cabinet that the Council prepare a draft submission for the LGBCE on the basis of no or minimal change to the existing number of EDDC Councillors (currently 59).

***23 Overview forward plan**

The Committee discussed items for the forward plan, and agreed the following topics to be scoped before further consideration on how to proceed:

RESOLVED

That the forward plan include:

13 January 2016 – Draft service plans and budget 2016/17 jointly with Scrutiny Committee.

26 January 2016 – Discussion on planning policy and how this should be dealt with within the Council, possibly through a separate planning policy committee. Also update from Rob Murray on economic development.

9 February 2016 – additional meeting on the Refuse and Recycling contract award.

22 March 2016 – Sustainability.

Attendance list

Councillors Present:

Peter Bowden (Chairman)
Graham Godbeer (Vice Chairman)

Matthew Booth
Peter Faithfull
Pat Graham
Maria Hale
Ian Hall
Rob Longhurst

Councillors Also Present:

David Barrett
Jill Elson
Roger Giles
Geoff Jung
Marianne Rixson
Philip Skinner
Pauline Stott
Tom Wright

Officers

Mark Williams. Chief Executive
Henry Gordon Lennox, Strategic Lead – Legal, Licensing & Democratic Services
John Golding, Strategic Lead – Housing, Health and Environment
Karen Jenkins, Strategic Lead - Organisational Development and Transformation
Andrew Ennis, Service Lead – Environment Health and Car Parks
Janet Wallace, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Alan Frampton, ch2m Consultants
Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer

Councillor Apologies:

Mike Allen
Paul Diviani
John Humphreys
Andrew Moulding

Chairman

Date.....