

## Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board

### Wednesday, 12 October 2016, County Hall, Worcester - 10.00 am

		<b>Minutes</b>
<b>Present:</b>		Mr R M Udall (Chairman), Mrs E A Eyre (Vice Chairman), Mr C B Taylor, Mr P A Tuthill and Mr T A L Wells
<b>Also attended:</b>		Mrs E B Tucker  Simon Mallinson (Head of Legal and Democratic Services) and Samantha Morris (Overview and Scrutiny Officer)
<b>Available Papers</b>		The members had before them:  A. The Agenda papers (previously circulated); B. Presentation handouts for Corporate Plan Refresh - Shaping Worcestershire's Future (2017-2022) (circulated at the meeting). C. Updated copies of the Forward Plan for the Member Update and Cabinet Forward Plan item (circulated at the meeting) D. The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 (previously circulated).  Copies of documents A to C will be attached to the signed Minutes.
<b>948</b>	<b>Apologies and Welcome</b>	Apologies were received from Alan Amos, Chris Bloore and Lynne Duffy.
<b>949</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest and of any Party Whip</b>	None.
<b>950</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>	None.
<b>951</b>	<b>Confirmation of the Minutes of the Previous</b>	It was reported that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 should be amended to show that Tracey Onslow was the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and not representing Wyre Forest District

## Meeting

### 952 Corporate Plan Refresh - Shaping Worcestershire's Future (2017-2022)

Council. Subject to the amendment, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Board received a presentation from the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on the draft refreshed Corporate Plan - 'Shaping Worcestershire's Future (2017-2022)' (copies were circulated at the Meeting).

During the Presentation, the following main areas were highlighted:

- The Council's current Corporate Plan was adopted by Council in January 2013 and was set to expire in 2017. Acknowledging the changing national and local landscape in which the Council was operating, the Plan had been refreshed to ensure that the content continued to be relevant over the next five years through to 2022.
- The Plan reflected the Peer Review feedback and aimed to paint a vision of the County, which focused on 'People' and 'Place', a Council culture which embraced innovation and new ideas, was enabling and encouraged self-sufficiency whilst working with partners and stakeholders and focusing on the significant financial challenges.
- The previous four key priorities were making a difference and had been retained. The Board were reminded that the priorities were: Promoting Health and Well-being, Supporting Children and Families, Championing Open for Business and Protecting the Environment. Some examples of successes in these areas were highlighted.
- The 'Vision' and 'Objectives' for the emerging refresh were:
  - (i) to increase prosperity in the County and support self-sufficiency through generating wealth/income to invest in other Council priorities such as:**
    - Promoting World Class Worcestershire
    - Delivering a connected County
    - Delivering game changer employment sites and locations
    - Creating a World Class workforce
  - (ii) to see more children and young people (C&YP) being fully prepared to live happy, healthy, independent and prosperous adult lives whilst working closely with partners to keep C&YP safe by:**
    - C&YP achieving their full potential in

education

- More young people moving successfully into employment
- Safeguarding at the heart of everything we do

**(iii) Our Environment including recreational, heritage and cultural offer was one of the County's unique selling points. The vision was to maximise the environmental assets in order to improve people's wellbeing, the economy and natural environment by:**

- Being a responsible custodian of the County's environment
- Commitment to improve transport networks and deliver resilient infrastructure
- Minimising waste production

**(iv) To support residents to become self-reliant in living longer, healthier, better quality lives and remain independent for as long as possible by:**

- Promoting healthy and active lifestyles
- Enabling vulnerable people to live as independently and safely as possible with the support of their friends families and communities
- Work with partners to make sure all health and social care services are evidence based, effective and value for money

**(v) By working with communities to enable self-reliance, resilience and unlock a greater level of community capacity to sustain those things that we wish to see continue but which the public sector alone can't do.**

Following the presentation, there was an opportunity for questions and the following main points discussed were:

- Scrutiny was very keen to be part of an innovative, progressive and forward looking Plan. It was suggested that the wording in the Plan should reflect this.
- There should be a mention of the Apprenticeship Levy being introduced in May 2017, as this was an opportunity for Council to demonstrate its leadership in the way in which it was handled. Eg the Council could help to develop the public sector standards.
- Following Brexit, there was a role for local

authorities in relation to farming and horticulture (two of the biggest industries in the County). It would be helpful if the Plan included a reference about supporting the rural economy in the context of the evolving changes for farming and the horticultural industry.

- In response to the suggestion that from a tourism perspective, the County Council could work with partners to enable Worcestershire to be discovered without reliance on cars. It was suggested that the World Class Worcestershire Website was a mechanism that could facilitate this.
- A concern was expressed about the impact on small businesses post Brexit and how this was reflected in the Plan. In response, the Board were advised that the Plan was based on what was known at the current time but that the Leader had written to 100 leading Worcestershire businesses over the summer to gauge the impact of Brexit and that early feedback had indicated that the market had been fairly resilient but there was a mixed picture. A more detailed survey was being carried out with 1200 local businesses via the LEP. This would provide more detailed feedback, the results of which would be available in December. The Plan would then be revised in light of evidence as necessary.
- A Member pointed out that the reference in the Presentation to educational outcomes in Worcestershire being 'pretty good' was inaccurate and that outcomes at KS2 were poor and very concerning irrespective of the fact that by KS4 the results had picked up again. He said that Worcestershire was struggling to compete with Shire comparables and there was no reference to how this would be addressed in the Vision. In response, it was pointed out that Children and Young People achieving their full potential in education was the number one priority for Children and Families. It was acknowledged that there was work to be done in terms of improving educational attainment and also with vulnerable learners but that it was important not to lose sight that 9 out of 10 schools were good or outstanding and that results did improve at KS4. The Council were working with Babcock to secure improvements in this area.
- It was acknowledged that in moving towards being a more enabling Council: Staff and Councillors needed the relevant skills to deliver the vision but

that it was an evolving process.

- It was confirmed that the Plan was a vision not a delivery plan and deliberately set an optimistic tone which was intended to inspire in challenging times. The detail would be worked through in due course when the Plan was agreed.
- The Plan would be shared with Parish Councils at the Parish Conference on 26 October.
- It was suggested that the document was bland, avoided addressing the challenging issues and failed to recognise some of the county's difficulties.
- It was questioned whether any of the relevant recommendations from the Increasing Physical Activity in Worcestershire Scrutiny had been included in the active lifestyles section of the Plan. The Chief Executive agreed to clarify this.
- The reference to reducing journey times should mention the Northern Orbital Road.
- In terms of dementia awareness, there was a greater expectation for communities to become dementia aware with campaigns like Dementia Friends.
- The role of Members was very important and it was suggested that members should be treated as partners. Previously, when plans were being developed, there had been Consultation Workshops for members earlier in the process so that they had been able to influence plans at the development phase rather than offering comments later in the process.
- The Public Health Impact Assessment was taking into account life expectancy and healthy life expectancy.

In summary, it was agreed that the following comments would be forwarded for inclusion in the Cabinet discussion at its meeting on 13 October 2016:

- The Plan should ensure that Scrutiny and Members were a route to help with innovation, policy development and enablement.
- Add in mention of the challenge of the changing economy as a consequence of Brexit and how we can help to manage that change.
- Although the Plan recognises success, we should be careful to avoid complacent language which may give a false impression that we cannot improve.

**953 Member Update  
and Cabinet  
Forward Plan**

Scrutiny Work Programme

During the Member Update, it was agreed that the following issues should be taken forward to the Scrutiny Work Programme following the 2017 Elections:

- Sexual Violence and Rape
- Cycleways
- Winter Service Policy

Footways Scrutiny Task Group

It was reported that a draft Report was being circulated to the Task Group for comment and would be discussed at the next OSPB.

Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

At its last meeting in September, the Panel received an update on the Property Asset Strategy and would be looking at the Place Partnership and the Smallholdings Strategy at its meeting in November.

Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel

The Panel at its most recent meeting received an update on Broadband and would be meeting again to discuss its value for money.

Quality Assurance

All Panel Chairman were asked to prepare an update on how Panels had been ensuring that Quality Assurance was incorporated into all scrutiny for the January OSPB.

Forward Plan

The Forward Plan had been updated following the Agenda despatch – copies of the updated Plan were circulated to the Board.

It was confirmed that the Local Transport Plan 4 would be discussed at the Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel early 2017. Councillor Taylor explained that Bromsgrove District Council had concerns about Worcestershire Highways and asked if there could be an opportunity for their views to be fed into the process.

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The meeting ended at 12.15 pm

Chairman .....