The attached minutes are for Consideration at the meeting of the Full Council to be held on 23 April 2014

Minutes of:

(i) Overview and Scrutiny Commission, 7 April 2014.

(Item 9 (1) (g) of the Full Council's Agenda refers).

(ii) Appointments and Investigating Committee, 8 April 2014.

(Item 9 (1) (h) of the Full Council's Agenda refers).

(iii) Development Control Committee, 8 April 2014.

(Item 9 (1) (i) of the Full Council's Agenda refers).

(iv) Cabinet, 9 April 2014.

(Item 9 (1) (j) of the Full Council's Agenda refers).

Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Monday 7 April 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Councillor S A Blake (Chair)
Councillor M G Jones (Vice-Chair)

Councillors B K Blake, B J Burgess, R G Burgess, C A Cheshire,

C C Lloyd, A J E Quirk and B A Smith (Substitute C A Moffatt)

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Dr H S Bloom Councillor R D Burrett

Officers Present:

Allan Hambly Communications Manager
Nikki Hargrave Housing Options Team Leader

Lee Harris Chief Executive

Diana Maughan Head of Housing Strategic Services and Planning

Elaine Sayers Democratic Services Officer

93. Apologies for Absence

Councillor L S Marshall-Ascough.

94. Members' Disclosure of Interests and Whipping Declarations

No disclosures of interests or whipping declarations were made by Members.

95. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 17 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

96. Public Question Time

No questions from the public were asked.

97. Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019

The Commission considered report <u>SHAP/036</u> of the Head of Strategic Housing and Planning Services. Members commented and sought clarification on a number of aspects of the report. Areas discussed included:-

- The Strategy was compiled of 5 Core Principles: Prevention, Sustainability, Integration, Empowerment and Equality. These were underpinned by 4 Strategic Objectives:-
 - 1. Provision of advice, prevention of homelessness and broader services
 - 2. Supply of affordable housing
 - 3. Temporary Accommodation
 - 4. Discharging the homeless duty
- The Strategy would be reviewed fully every 5 years. Annual updates would be published on the Councils website.
- The 'No Second Night Out' (NSNO) aspiration would be delivered by a countrywide partnership. Crawley, Horsham and Mid Sussex would be one of the local 'hubs' which would aim to deliver the new 'Assertive Outreach' service to all rough sleepers within the hubs' localities. It was widely accepted that the number of homelessness applications would not be expected to decrease in the next 5 years.
- An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out as part of the Strategy Review. Staff
 Members within the Homelessness Team were responsible for equalities and for the
 continuation of applying Impact Assessments to ascertain their clients' ability to access
 services.
- Self Contained Temporary Accommodation would still be used outside of the Borough if required. This would apply to both single and family cases.
- The Council's Homelessness Team would continue to be receptive to all cases of homelessness including those that were considered Long Term cases. The new 'Assertive Outreach' service would aim to address the issues that underpin an individual's homelessness. This new Outreach service would be supported by the local Police, Social Services and a range of other partners.
- Alternative methods were being sought to replace the 'Mortgage Rescue Scheme' but as yet no national scheme had been identified as a replacement. Since the financial down turn there had been a range of client types who had sought help and it was accepted this would continue to be the case over the lifetime of this Strategy.
- More work had been conducted across all tenures to promote Tenancy Sustainment and prevent recurrent Homelessness.

RESOLVED

That the Commission agreed to endorse the recommendations in full to the Cabinet subject to the following amendments:-

- i) Paragraph 6, lines 3/4-amend sentence to read 'The revised action plan <u>will</u> be published as an addendum to the strategy and made available on the Council's website'.
- ii) Strategic Objective 1, Action 8 to be replaced with the wording 'Explore possible options and services under the 'No Second Night out' agenda to single rough sleepers to whom the Council may have no statutory duty to provide accommodation but who will be severely affected by sleeping rough and who impact upon wider agencies and communities.

98. Internal and External Communications Department

The commission considered report CEX/043 of the Communications Manager, who explained that the Local Audit and Accountability Bill had now become law in February 2014. Members commented and sought clarification on a number of aspects of the report. Areas discussed included:-

The Crawley Live Magazine. The new Act would impact on the Crawley Live Magazine
which could only be published a maximum of 4 times a year from the previous 6 times
per year. The Communication Manager explained that the pagination would be
increased to ensure the new versions captured more features as opposed to news

items. The perceived size of the new publication was debated by members of the Commission who were unsure that a larger version would be of benefit to its readers. There was also further discussion on the viability of having better coverage for all Councillors and their wards within the new publication as opposed to articles solely by Cabinet Members. Suggestions for the new delivery scheme were also discussed at length. Such areas might include weekly delivery, social media, display stands at bus stations, train stations, doctor and dental surgeries; the Communications Manager agreed that all suggestions would be considered before a final decision was made.

- Press Information- Questions were raised as to who was the 'Council Spokesperson' that commented regularly in the local press and who dealt with Freedom of Information requests. The Spokesperson role was the responsibility of the Communications Manager. All Freedom of Information requests were dealt with by officers within the area that the information related to. Media releases were the responsibility of the Communications Team; a considerable amount of the Communications Team's time was spent on responding to media releases. Members expressed concerns about the figures recorded in the local media for Member attendance at Council meetings. They felt the figures were distorted and did not accurately reflect the work they carried out. Members expressed concerns at the recent press release to the local media on Pest Control Charges as this had been released prior to the Portfolio Holder being advised. Members discussed the extract from the Constitution on press release procedures and sought clarification to ensure that Officers kept Portfolio Holders informed prior to press releases of any major or controversial issues.
- The Councils Website Crawley Live was published on the Council's website. A
 Member suggested a more user-friendly website that had increased accessibility to
 useful information already published in the Crawley Live, might be a more suitable
 alternative to a publication.

RESOLVED

That Report CEX/043 on the Internal and External Communications Department be noted.

99. Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASCSC)

Members were given copies of the recent letters from HASC and corresponding replies from Amanda Fadero, NHS England Surrey and Sussex Team Manager.

Members once again expressed concerns over the NHS England's lack of urgency to act following the winter storms. This had served to increase the storm damage to the Leacroft Medical Practice building in Langley Green and as a result the surgery would not be re opening until January 2015. Councillors R Burgess and B Smith resolved that Amanda Fadero would be invited to attend the next meeting of HASC where she would be available to respond to any unresolved issues regarding the Leacroft Medical Practice building.

RESOLVED

That Councillors R Burgess and B Smith would request the Chair of HASCSC, Margaret Evans, invited Amanda Fadero to attend the next meeting of the HASC.

100. Scrutiny Panels

Below is a brief update on the Commission's Panels:

Town Centre Parking Scrutiny Panel

The Panel meeting on the 18th March had welcomed input from Town Centre Parking Operators and representatives from the Pound land Store. The meeting on 14 April would

review the Accessibility Audit with Town Access Group and the Accessibility Officer as well as taking into account the Night Time economy.

Recording How Members Vote Scrutiny Panel

The Panel had met recently to discuss alternative voting methods and had trialled the inhouse voting system. A visit to Brighton and Hove Council to view their electronic voting system was planned for late April or early May.

Performance Monitoring Scrutiny Panel

Councillor Lloyd gave an overview of the Councils Performance, taken from the minutes of the February meeting of the Panel. The next meeting was arranged for 8th July 2014.

101. Forward Plan – 1 May 2014 and Provisional List of Reports for the Commission's following Meetings

The Commission considered the latest version of the Forward Plan and the provisional lists of reports for future Commission's meetings.

The following referrals were made from the Forward Plan:-

30 June 2014

- (1) Proposed development by St Modwen including the CBC owned land East of Crawley (referred)
- (2) Extending Partnership Working with WSCC highways (referred)
- (3) Councils role in the multi-agency responsibilities for major flooding incidents across West Sussex (referred)
- (4) 117 Ifield Road Petition-heritage value and potential for community use (referred)
- (5) Submission Local Plan-a decision would be made whether this should go before Cabinet or straight to Full Council, following the local elections in May

8 September 2014

- (1) Three Bridges Station Forecourt Project (referred)
- (2) Petitions Scheme (referred)

102. Closure of Meeting

The meeting ended at 9.10pm.

S A BLAKE Chair

Minutes of Appointments and Investigating Committee 8 April 2014 at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Councillors R D Burrett, D G Crow, C C Lloyd, C J Mullins and K J Trussell

Officers Present:

Peter Browning Jo Gaywood Lee Harris Director of Transformation and Housing.

Human Resources Manager

Chief Executive

Apologies for Absence:

Phil Rogers

Director of Community Services

1. Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED

That Councillor R D Burrett be appointed Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. Members' Disclosure of Interests

No interests were disclosed.

3. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the items.

4. Head of Community Facilities

(Exempt Paragraph 1 – Information Relating to an Individual)

The Committee interviewed one candidate for this appointment.

RESOLVED

That the post of Head of Community Facilities be offered to Chris Harris (currently Head of Amenity Services at Crawley Borough Council), subject to and in accordance with the terms of the Council's Constitution, any objections from Members of the Cabinet.

5. Head of Partnership Services

(Exempt Paragraph 1 - Information Relating to an Individual)

The Committee interviewed one candidate for this appointment.

RESOLVED

That the post of Head of Partnership Services be offered to Nigel Sheehan (currently Head of Community Services at Crawley Borough Council), subject to and in accordance with the terms of the Council's Constitution, any objections from Members of the Cabinet.

6. Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Committee concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.10 p.m.

R D BURRETT Chair

Minutes of Development Control Committee 8 April 2014 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor J I Denman (Chair)
Councillor S J Joyce (Vice-Chair)

Councillors B K Blake, S A Blake, B J Burgess, L A M Burke, I T Irvine,

R Lanzer, A J E Quirk, D J Shreeves, P C Smith, G Thomas, W A Ward and C C Mullins (substitute)

Officers Present:

Angela Tanner
Jean McPherson
Michelle Harper
Manson Kendall
Sally English
Head of Planning & Environmental Services
Group Manager Development Management
Principal Planning Officer
Principal Property Lawyer
Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors C Denman and C Moffatt.

79. Lobbying Declarations

Councillor D Shreeves was lobbied on agenda item 3.

80. Members' Disclosure of Interests

Member	Minute Number	Subject	Type and Nature of Disclosure
Cllr J Denman	Minute 82	CR/2014/0068/CON	Personal interest as one of the objectors to the application is related to Cllr Denman. Cllr Denman left the room for this item and did not take part in the discussion or vote on the item.

81. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

82. Planning Applications List

The Committee considered report PES/135 of the Head of Planning and Environmental Services

RESOLVED

That in respect of the applications specified below, details of which are more particularly set out in report PES/135 of the Head of Planning and Environmental Services and in the Register of Planning Applications the decisions be given as indicated:-

CR/2013/0153/ADV

21 – 28 Broad Walk, Northgate, Crawley

Erection of 1 x fascia sign.

Councillor I Irvine has visited the site independently.

Michelle Harper, Principal Planning Officer (MH), gave a verbal update on the application and advised the Committee that it was now retrospective as the fascia sign had already been erected, adding that the delay since the application had been made was due to design issues which had taken time to finalise. The Committee considered the application, and MH responded to their comments stating that:

- The content of the sign could not be controlled by CBC
- The sign proposed had been to meet a current need and was seen as a temporary measure only (3 year consent sought)

Permit subject to the following conditions: the advertisement to be removed on or before 8 April 2017; no advertisement to be displayed without site owner's permission or anyone else with an interest in the site entitled to grant permission; no advertisement shall be sited or displayed so as to: endanger persons using any highway, railway, waterway, dock, harbour or aerodrome; obscure hinder the ready interpretation of any traffic sign, railway signal or aid to navigation by water or air; hinder the operation of devices used for the purpose of security or surveillance or for measuring the speed of any vehicle; maintenance of any displayed advertisement in a condition that does not impair the visual amenity of the site; maintenance of any structure or hoarding used principally for displaying advertisements in a condition that does not endanger the public; where an advertisement is required to be removed, the site to be left in a condition that does not endanger the public or impair visual amenity; in accordance with the Town & Country Planning Act (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007.

CR/2014/0053/FUL

TLC Electrical Wholesale Distributors, Fleming Way

Change of use from storage and warehouse (Class B8) with trade counter and offices, to storage and warehouse (Class B8) with offices, production area and training, along with ground floor showroom, external changes to the building and additional car parking.

MH gave a verbal summation of the application which the Committee then considered. MH responded to an enquiry about the showroom size by stating that the size had been conditioned to ensure the showroom remained ancillary to the main building and did not become a separate space in its own right in the future.

Permit subject to the following conditions: permission time limit and Decision Notice, to comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; showroom area not to exceed 522sq m, and to be used only in connection with other uses within the building and not as an individual or independent unit; no occupation of the building until car parking spaces have been laid out, and these not be used for any other purpose without written prior approval of the Local Authority; secure cycle storage provision before occupation of the building; in accordance with policy TC4 of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, and policy GD3 of the Crawley Borough Local Plan.

CR/2014/0068/CON

Burlands Farm, Charlwood Road, Ifield, Crawley

Consultation from WSCC (WSCC/006/14/RS) for the temporary erection of a soil recycling facility processing a maximum of 50,000 tonnes of inert waste (revision of application WSCC/029/13/RS). For 12 months to enable business continuity during on-going search for an alternative permanent site.

Jean McPherson, Group Manager Development Management (JMcP), gave a verbal summation of the application and updated the Committee that further information on noise levels had been submitted by the applicant. The Environmental Health Officer (EHO) had reviewed the information and concluded it did not fully address the previous concerns and that an objection to the application is still raised.

The first speaker, Mr Richard Symonds, gave a presentation to the Committee, in which he used a map to illustrate points which included:

- Bonnetts Lane becomes a 'rat run' during evening rush hour
- Numerous accidents have occurred over the years
- Browns lorries 'thunder' along the staggered junction of Ifield Avenue,
 Charlwood Road and Bonnetts Lane, making it very dangerous for both cyclists and motorists
- Great concern caused by prediction of 60 extra lorry movements a day
- At weekends, horses and children use Charlwood Road and Ifield Green which have no pavements and some very dangerous bends
- One fatality already on these bends, involving a Browns lorry

Councillor Brenda Smith, ward member for Langley Green then spoke against the application, making points including the following:

- Residents in Langley Green are anxious application should be refused
- Noise from development would be bad enough but made worse by noise and dust from heavy lorries
- No difference between previous application and the current one, other than reduction of amount of waste processed
- Hard to understand how waste soil could be measured anyway
- Wishes to send clear voice of Crawley to WSCC that the development is not wanted in a rural area or near urban neighbourhoods in Ifield and Langley Green

Members of the Committee raised numerous concerns regarding the proposed development and expressly requested these be recorded in the minutes and relayed to WSCC to illustrate the Committee's full reasons for refusing the application. The specific concerns were:

Concerns to be forwarded to WSCC

- 1. Number of daily truck movements. There was concern there had been no explicit comment from WSCC on truck movements, especially as they would be fast-moving and therefore dangerous in a rural area.
- 2. Other lorries and vehicles would be using the site to buy materials and soil and this would make it hard to quantify the number of vehicles movements to and from the site. Such additional movements would raise the number to much higher than the forecast 60 per day as that figure applied to Browns lorries only.
- 3. Other HGVs already used the area and it was felt these often 'chase' each other, increasing a level of danger considered to be unacceptable, especially along rural roads
- 4. Concern at the height of the stockpiles. It was felt this would be hard to specify and regulate as the materials would be moved around the site during processing.
- 5. Increase noise levels would impact negatively on the quality of life for residents as well as at a local school for students with learning difficulties

JMcP agreed to forward the minutes of the meeting to WSCC for their consideration. She also confirmed the hours of work for the Committee as being Mon – Fri 8am – 6pm, and Sat 8am – 1pm. She also explained that it was not possible to accurately compare aircraft noise with noise generated by the proposed development as they had different pitches and frequencies, adding that the proposed use would be a sustained noise whereas aircraft noise was not. She added that the EHO had advised the proposed noise levels would create a significant problem for residents.

Objection raised on the following grounds:

 The proposed development, virtue of its unacceptable noise generation, would be detrimental to the amenities of the nearby Crawley Borough residents. The proposal would thereby be contrary to policies GD1 and GD20 of the Crawley Borough Council Local Plan (2000).

CR/2014/0079/RG3

Barrington Road/Chandler Close/Wainwrights, Southgate, Crawley

Change of use of existing grass verges to a public carriageway to form additional parking spaces, pedestrian accesses and low level fencing.

MH gave a verbal summation of the application and advised the Committee that she proposed the deletion of condition 4 as this could be covered as an informative. The Committee considered the application and agreed to the deletion of condition 4 and an informative being added instead.

Permit subject to the following conditions: permission time limit and Decision Notice in accordance with Section 91 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990; tree protection measures as set out in Tree Protection Method Statement to be installed before any development takes place on the site; in accordance with policy GD5 of the Crawley Borough Local Plan 2000.

CR/2014/0084/RG3

Wingspan House, Whitworth Road, Langley Green, Crawley

Erection of 1.8m high chain link fencing on site perimeter.

MH gave a verbal summation of the application which the Committee then considered.

Permit subject to the following conditions: permission time limit and Decision Notice in accordance with Section 91 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990; the permitted fence to incorporate black metal fence posts and green chain link fencing (Green RAL no.6005), be constructed in the agreed colours and be maintained as such thereafter; in accordance with policies GD1 and GD2 of the Crawley Borough Local Plan 2000.

CR/2014/0091/RG3

Jackdaw Close, Langley Green, Crawley

Change of use from grass verge to lay-by and step-off area to create 9 parking spaces.

MH gave a verbal summation of the application which the Committee then considered.

Permit subject to the following conditions: permission time limit and Decision Notice, in accordance with Section 91 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

CR/2014/0096/FUL

Land south-east of Buchan Park Kennels (near A264), Crawley Southwest By Pass, Broadfield, Crawley.

Replacement of the existing 15m monopole with a 17.5m CU phosco monopole with 6 antennas, relocation of existing 2 x 300mm microwave dishes with a further 2 x 300mm microwave dishes (4 in total), 3 x RRUs and equipment ancillary to development.

MH gave a verbal summation of the application which the Committee then considered. MH advised that the High Weald AONB management committee not been consulted on the application but would advise the member who made the request on the consultation requirements..

Approved subject to the following conditions: permission time limit and Decision Notice; in accordance with Section 91 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990.

84. Any other business

A request was made for the plans that accompany applications to be made clearer and JMcP noted the request to action and implement for future agendas.

83. Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Committee concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.38pm.

J I DENMAN Chair

Minutes of Cabinet

Wednesday 9 April 2014 at 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor Dr H S Bloom (Chair of Cabinet and Leader of the Council)

R D Burrett (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing)

D G Crow (Cabinet Member for Leisure and Cultural Services)

R A Lanzer (Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development)

K J Trussell (Cabinet Member for Environmental Services)

Also in attendance:

Councillor S A Blake

Officers Present:

Ann-Maria Brown
Peter Browning
David Covill
Head of Legal & Democratic Services
Director of Transformation & Housing
Director of Development & Resources

Lee Harris Chief Executive

Sally English Democratic Services Officer

114. Apologies for absence

Councillor N Boxall.

115. Members' Disclosure of Interests

None.

116. Councillor Claire Denman

The Leader informed the Cabinet of the resignation, after 10 years at CBC, of Councillor Claire Denman as ward member for Pound Hill South and Worth and as member of the Cabinet with responsibility for Customer and Corporate Services.

On behalf of the Cabinet, he asked for the minutes to record the thanks and appreciation for Cllr Denman's excellent contribution to Crawley Borough Council over the last 10 years, 8 of which were as a Cabinet Member. She was also Deputy Leader 2012-2013. He said her knowledge, enthusiasm and good humour would be greatly missed. The expertise she had brought to her role as Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development had

also been sought by other local authorities at Member level, and he and the Cabinet were very grateful for her immense contribution to Crawley Borough Council.

116. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 March 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

117. Public Question Time

There were no questions from the public.

118. Further Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private and Notifications of any Representations

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that no representations had been received in respect of item 11 Business Rates Maximisation.

119. Matters Referred to the Cabinet

117 Ifield Road – Heritage Value and Potential for Community Use The Cabinet noted that, as agreed at the meeting of the Council on 26 February, the petition regarding 117 Ifield Road, Crawley, will be considered at the 2 July Cabinet.

120. Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019 (Housing Portfolio)

The Cabinet considered report SHAP/36 of the Head of Strategic Housing & Planning which sought approval for the Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019 to be adopted to update the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2008-2013.

The matter had been considered at the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission on 7 April 2014. The Commission commended the officers involved for producing a clear and concise report, and endorsed the recommendations in full to the Cabinet subject to the following amendments:

- Strategic Objective 1, Action 8 to be replaced with the wording 'Explore possible
 options and services under the 'No Second Night Out' agenda to single rough sleepers
 to whom the Council may have no statutory duty to provide accommodation but who
 will be severely affected by sleeping rough and who impact upon wider agencies and
 communities.
- 2) Section 6 Monitoring and Review, lines 3 and 4. Amend sentence to read 'The revised action plan <u>will</u> be published as an addendum to the strategy and made available on the Council's website'.

The Cabinet noted the endorsement of the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and agreed with its recommendations, and also endorsed the Commission's appreciation to the officers for producing such a clear and succinct report.

RESOLVED

RECOMMENDATION 5

That Full Council is RECOMMENDED:

To approve the Homelessness Strategy 2014-2019 as attached to the report SHAP/36 for adoption and subsequent publication, subject to the amendments identified above to Strategic Objective 1 and Section 6.

Reason for Decision

To fulfill the Council's legal duty to publish a Homelessness Strategy on expiry of the previous document designed to demonstrate how the Authority intends to prevent and address homelessness in the future.

121. Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraphs specified against the items.

122. Business Rates Maximisation (Leader's Portfolio)

(Exempt Paragraph 3 – Information relating to financial and business affairs of any particular person including the Authority holding that information)

The Cabinet considered report FIN/333 of the Head of Finance, Revenues & Benefits. The Council collects business rates, part of which are retained by the Council. Rates are only due when a property has been included on the rating list by the Valuation Officer. It is in the Council's interest to identify properties that are either not on the rating list, or on the list at too low a rateable value. The report sought approval to employ an external firm to help meet this objective.

RESOLVED

That approval be given for the Council to enter into a contract with Inform CPI Ltd to support the Council in maximising its rating income on a reward basis.

Reason for Decision

It is in the interests of the Council to identify properties that are not on the rating list, or on the list at too low a value. Employing a third party will enhance the Council's capability to achieve this.

123. Closure of Meeting

With the business of the Cabinet concluded, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.45pm.

DR H S BLOOM Chair