

# Crawley Borough Council



## Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission Monday 27 June 2016 at 7.00pm

### Present:

Councillor B A Smith (Chair)  
Councillor R G Burgess (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors M L Ayling, T G Belben, C A Cheshire, I T Irvine, R A Lanzer, T Rana,  
K Sudan and L Vitler

### Also in Attendance:

Councillors P K Lamb, A C Skudder and G Thomas

Mr J G Smith MBE, Honorary Freeman and Alderman

**Apologises for Absence:** Councillor Dr H S Bloom

### Officers Present:

Tony Baldock Environmental Health Manager  
Heather Girling Democratic Services Officer  
Lee Harris Chief Executive  
Karen Hayes Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits  
Nigel Sheehan Head of Partnership Services

## 10. Members' Disclosure of Interests and Whipping Declarations

The following disclosures of interests were made by Members:-

Member	Minute Number	Subject	Type and Nature of Disclosure
Councillor R A Lanzer	13	Budget Strategy 2017/2018 – 2020/2021	Personal Interest – Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.
Councillor B A Smith	13	Budget Strategy 2017/2018 – 2020/2021	Personal Interest – Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

## 11. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on [6 June 2016](#) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 12. Public Question Time

No questions from the public were asked.

## 13. Budget Strategy 2017/2018 – 2020/2021

The Commission considered report [FIN/386](#) with the Leader of the Council and the Head of Finance, Revenues and Benefits, which set out the projected financial position for 2017/18 to 2020/21 for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, capital programme and the underlying assumptions.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Acknowledgement that reserves will be available for investment properties within the Investment Acquisition Reserve. Criteria was applied to assess potential purchases to ensure minimal risk.
- The transformation programme would continue to identify service improvements and efficiencies using the systems thinking methodology, together with new ways of generating income.
- Acknowledgement that the revaluation of the pension fund by WSCC had resulted in an increase in contributions.
- Recognition that the EU Referendum had resulted in an unusual set of circumstances within the current economic climate and an acknowledgement that there was uncertainty regarding the financial impact which may affect budget projections.

### RESOLVED

That the Commission supported the recommendations to the Cabinet.

## 14. Crawley Town Hall

The Commission considered report [HPS/05](#) with the Cabinet Member for Resources and the Head of Partnership Services. The report sought approval to enter into an exclusivity agreement with Westrock to facilitate a viability assessment of a joint development on the current town hall site, the adjacent car park site and potentially the Kilnmead car park site. It also sought to commission work to progress the design development and cost appraisal for a new town hall whilst agreeing a supplementary capital estimate to fund the costs associated with a viability assessment and design development.

Members' main views included:

- The new Town Hall option was an exciting prospect, providing better value than the remodelling option in terms of providing space for commercial let or community use.
- There was an appreciation that the Town Hall is a landmark site and further work was required to assess the viability and facilitate the design development.
- The option proposed would result in a more energy efficient and cost effective Town Hall building. It would also provide a better environment for officers and visitors, whilst offering an additional housing development (with an affordable homes element) and potentially a District Heat Network.
- The current Town Hall would remain the council's administrative centre until the new Town Hall was ready to move into.

- Recognition that whilst a retail element would be beneficial, the nature of the Town Hall business and operating hours may make this problematic.
- Acknowledgement that the usage of the Town Hall car park required verification in order to determine whether space could be allocated for some residential units. It was also noted that this needed to include voluntary and community sector users.
- Support for further investment into the Town Hall car park to include security and lighting.
- Recognition that the loss of Kilnmead car park may increase parking issues within the town.
- Support for the memorabilia within the current Town Hall to be retained once construction commenced.
- Support for establishing a cross-party Member working group to develop the brief further and that all Members should be consulted as to the design development.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Commission supported the recommendations to the Cabinet and was keen for the proposal to proceed.

### **15. Review of Statement of Licensing Policy Gambling Act 2005**

The Commission considered report [PES/200](#) of the Head of Economic and Environmental Services. The report requested authorisation to conduct statutory consultation before seeking formal approval for adoption of the revised policy later in the year.

During the discussion with the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Sustainability and the Environmental Health Manager, the following points were expressed:

- Recognition that the proposed revised Statement of Licensing Policy Gambling Act 2005 did not take into account on-line gambling as this was the responsibility of the Gambling Commission.
- Support for the proximity of premises to schools, vulnerable adult centres or to residential areas with a high concentration of families with children to be taken into account when determining a licence. However it was acknowledged that a vast majority of premises were located within shopping parades and each case would need to be reviewed individually.
- Clarification sought as to the exact date for the consultation period to be fed back to Members.
- Support for an equivalent 'Business Watch' forum for gambling premises, operating similar to 'Pub Watch'.
- Clarification sought that the amendments and additions to the revised policy would be clearly highlighted throughout the consultation period.
- Support for the consultation period to include education establishments and to extend outside the summer holidays to ensure sufficient response.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Commission supported the recommendations to the Cabinet but recommended an extension to the consultation period outside the summer holidays to ensure sufficient response.

## 16. Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2016-2017

Members reviewed report [OSC/248](#) presented by the Chair of the Commission. The report contained the findings from the Commission's Workshop. Each of the proposals had been examined and discussed in depth on 8 June 2016.

### RESOLVED

1. That the following was agreed following the OSC Workshop for each of the proposed scrutiny topics:

Fostering Interest in Local Government –

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission does not proceed with a full scrutiny review.
- It is recommended that a (one-off) workshop be established (via OSC) to investigate 'how to foster interest in local government'. This would be a "brainstorming session" where ideas can be sought on how this subject could be addressed resulting in actions that the Cabinet Member could progress and take forward.

Universal Credit Delivery –

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission defer the examination of Universal Credit Delivery scrutiny review.
- That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission receive an update on the Benefits Systems Thinking Review at one of its meetings (5 September 2016).

Immigration Removal Centres –

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission does not proceed with a scrutiny review on Immigration Removal Centres as the ability to influence in the manner as suggested by the review would be significantly limited and the responsibility lies elsewhere.
- It is recommended that the contact details for Inspectorate of Prisons and the South East Strategic Partnership for Migration be passed to those concerned.

On-Street Parking Provision –

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission defer the examination of On-street Parking Provision scrutiny review.
- That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission receive an update on the Streetscene Systems Thinking Review at one of its meetings (7 November 2016).

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Programme for 2016-2017 be agreed as set out in report [OSC/248](#) with an acknowledgement that it would remain flexible to consider other items throughout the year.

3. That Members would feedback comments to Democratic Services on the Mayoralty and Civic Engagements report.

## 17. Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)

The next HASC meeting was scheduled for 30 June 2016 and would consider the Sussex Patient Transport Service along with a report on the South East Coach Ambulance Service Recovery Plan.

**18. Update on Scrutiny Panels**

Review of Democratic Structures

Membership: Councillors: B A Smith (Chair), Dr H S Bloom, R G Burgess, I T Irvine, T Lunnon, K Sudan and K J Trussell

The next meeting of the Panel was set for 21 July 2016.

**Crawley Leisure Card**

Membership: Councillors: M L Ayling (Chair), R S Fiveash, F Guidera, B McCrow and R Sharma

The next meeting of the Panel was set for 11 July 2016.

**19. Forward Plan – August 2016 and Provisional List of Reports for the following meetings of the Commission**

The Commission considered the latest version of the Forward Plan and the provisional lists of reports for future meetings. The referrals included:

**October 2016**

257-259 Ifield Road – Development Site Proposals (Provisional Referral)

Crawley 2030: Supplementary Planning Documents (Provisional Referral)

Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Documents (Provisional Referral)

Town Centre Supplementary Planning Documents (Provisional Referral)

**20. Closure of Meeting**

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

B A Smith  
**Chair**