

Crawley Borough Council



Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission Monday 3 October 2016 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillor B A Smith (Chair)
Councillors M L Ayling, T G Belben, Dr H S Bloom, C A Cheshire, I T Irvine,
R A Lanzer and K Sudan

Also in Attendance:

Councillor S J Joyce, P K Lamb and P C Smith

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors R G Burgess and L Vitler

Absent:

Councillor T Rana

Officers Present:

Karen Dodds	Head of Crawley Homes
Heather Girling	Democratic Services Officer
Lee Harris	Chief Executive
Sallie Lappage	Forward Planning Manager
Anthony Masson	Senior Planning Officer
Andy Mighall	Contracts Manager (Crawley Homes)
Paul Windust	Corporate Accounting & Treasury Services Manager

31. Members' Disclosure of Interests and Whipping Declarations

No disclosures of interests or whipping declarations were made.

32. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on [5 September 2016](#) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. Councillor Irvine raised a matter on item 25 (Safer Crawley Partnership Annual Review 2015-2016 and Priorities for 2016-17) and wished to minute that some Members had questioned the identification of 'Street Community' as a priority for the Safer Crawley Partnership for 2016-17.

33. Public Question Time

No questions from the public were asked.

34. Treasury Management Outturn 2015/16

The Commission considered report [FIN/393](#) with the Leader of the Council and the Corporate Accounting and Treasury Services Manager. The regulatory environment places responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of the treasury management policy and activities. The report provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Support that given the uncertainty within the current economic climate, the internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 0.96%.
- It was acknowledged that longer term investments with higher yields had matured during the year and so the average rate of return would continue to fall.
- Further information was requested to be provided in future reports with reference to the detailed holdings (maturity date/rate). It was felt that the investment duration profile would be pertinent in future reports.
- Queries sought and obtained on higher yielding investments with lower ratings. The primary consideration for the Council is the security of the investment. However, alternative investment instruments are being explored and approval for such instruments will be brought to Council for approval later in the year.

RESOLVED

That the Commission agreed to support the recommendations to the Cabinet.

35. Crawley 2030: Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) Climate Change; Green Infrastructure; Town Centre; Urban Design

The Commission considered report [SHAP/55](#) with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development, Forward Planning Manager and Senior Planning Officer. The report outlined a summary of each of the SPDs, together with a brief overview of the representations received through the consultation and the changes made to the documents since their publication for consultation. SPDs should be used where they can help applicants make successful planning applications or aid infrastructure delivery. A series of new SPDs have been prepared to aid the interpretation and implementation of the new adopted Crawley Borough Local Plan (Crawley 2030).

Members' comments included:

- Acknowledgement that SPDs would provide guidance to aid planning applications and infrastructure delivery.
- Support for the heritage guidance featured within the Urban Design SPD.
- Support for the 'Authority Monitoring Report' to be regularly included in Members' Information Bulletin when available.
- Whilst it was acknowledged it was not entirely related to the SPD process it was recognised that the monitoring of planning applications and conditions would be undertaken by the Enforcement Team.

RESOLVED

That the Commission agreed to support the recommendations to the Cabinet.

36. Proposed further Article 4 Direction for Manor Royal (Light Industrial Class B1c)

The Commission considered report [SHAP/56](#) of the Head of Strategic Housing and Planning Services. The report proposed a non-immediate Article 4 Direction for Manor Royal. This would restrict the permitted development rights afforded by the Town and Country (General Permitted Development Order) 2015 that allow changes of use from light industrial (Class B1c) to dwelling houses (Class C3) without the need for planning permission. The Article 4 would withdraw these rights within Manor Royal because of the adverse impact these changes are having on the supply of employment floor space and the commercial operation of the Business District.

During the discussion with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development, the Forward Planning Manager and the Senior Planning Officer, the following points were made:

- Members commended the officers in the compilation of the work undertaken and that the experience is shared with other agencies and partners.
- Recognition that an Article 4 Direction provides the protection and control against various classes of development.
- There was strong support for the additional Article 4 Direction as it was felt vital to protect the Manor Royal business district area.
- Appreciation that whilst there was significant unmet housing need, new housing should only be provided in areas that are appropriate for residents to live.

RESOLVED

That the Commission supported the recommendations to the Cabinet

37. Affordable Housing Delivery Programme: Redevelopment of 257/259 Ifield Road, West Green, Crawley & Budget Approval for development of Woolborough Road (Northgate Surgery) Northgate, Crawley

The Commission considered report [CH/168](#) with the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Head of Crawley Homes. The report sought approval for the budget to build residential units on an existing residential site, 257/259 Ifield Road as part of the Council's own build housing programme and delegated authorities to enter into a procurement and feasibility study for this site and the Woolborough Road (Northgate Surgery) site, together with approval to increase the previously agreed budget for the development of Woolborough Road (Northgate Surgery).

The main comments included:

- Confirmation sought and obtained on individual aspects of the various options. Recognition that any loss of garages would potentially result in parking issues elsewhere.
- Acknowledgement that whilst options 2 and 4 had greater property development potential than the preferred option, concern was expressed of overdevelopment, traffic, garden licences and general disruption to the area. Option 3 meanwhile would retain the existing garages and would result in the least amount of impact on the local community.

RESOLVED

That the Commission supported the recommendations to the Cabinet

38. West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Housing Provision for Care Leavers

The Commission considered report [OSC/250](#) of Councillor K Sudan on behalf of the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group which set out the findings and recommendations from the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Review of Housing Provision for Care Leavers which was undertaken by a Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group.

During the discussion, the following points were expressed:

- Support for the work of the Task and Finish Group, together with the existing joint working protocol in place for district and borough councils. The Commission took the opportunity to thank Councillor Sudan for her involvement and work in the Task and Finish Group.
- Recognition that local authorities have a duty to ensure continued involvement in supporting local people as they leave care of a county council and move into independence.
- Support for the responsibility and monitoring of the recommendations to reside with the Corporate Parenting Panel and West Sussex County Council.

RESOLVED

That the Commission agreed to endorse the recommendations to the Cabinet and that these should be passed to West Sussex County Council.

39. Crawley Leisure Card Scrutiny Panel Final Report

The Commission considered report [OSC/251](#) of Councillor M L Ayling as Chair of the Crawley Leisure Card Scrutiny Panel. The Panel was established to investigate the scope, advantages and disadvantages of introducing a 'Crawley Leisure Card' for various facilities within across the borough.

The Commission held a detailed discussion with the Chair of the Panel and various views and ideas were raised. Members supported the recommendations listed in section 8.1 (a-h) of the report. However, some Members felt that the report was not fully comprehensive and the following comments and recommendations should be included:

- Acknowledgement that the majority of facilities were now not run by the council, making a town wide concession scheme logistically difficult to implement and administer.
- Recognition that the Active Crawley card provided discounts at K2 Crawley similar to the Leisure Plus card.
- Specific support for recommendation 8.1 'g' that the possibility of discounts should be investigated in any future contract negotiations.
- Disappointment expressed that a town-wide leisure card had not been achieved and user groups had not been reflected in the report. As a result, the following recommendations were made:

- i. That consideration be given to enter into discussions with current contractors regarding the possibility of providing discounts for Crawley residents.
- ii. That consideration be given whether the “percentage of community use” could continue to be accommodated for Crawley residents in any future contract negotiations.
- iii. That consideration be given to the potential of introducing a Crawley resident charge/discount within council run facilities where possible – for example adventure playgrounds and Tilgate Nature Centre. It was recognised that the Five Year Business Plan for Tilgate Park and Nature Centre was approved in 2015 and varying discount options may affect the income received by the Council.
- iv. That consideration be given to the potential to offer Crawley resident group sessions at K2 Crawley. (There was however concern that this could result in regional segregation between individuals and classes).

RESOLVED

That the Commission agreed to support the recommendations to the Cabinet but wished the additional comments and recommendations to be taken in account.

40. Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee (HASC)

Councillor K Sudan provided an update from the HASC meeting on 29 September 2016. Key items of discussion included:

- Royal Sussex County Hospital and Central Sussex Stroke Services Review – it was noted that there were proposals to centralise the Hyper Acute Stroke services and Acute Stroke services at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton
- Patient Transport Services - feedback from provider trusts whose patients use the service, and from patients themselves, had been that the service was much improved from its poor start. However, it was acknowledged that the improvement was not embedded across the whole of Sussex and the situation is monitored closely.
- Adults’ Services Transformation Project – changes were proposed in how Adult Social Care would be delivered in West Sussex in order to ensure sustainability and to help those with social care needs, and that their families and carers have a better quality of life. A new vision for Adult Social Care was being developed which included a community based operating model with a focus on “strength based conversations”. The new model emphasised an approach based on collaboration with people, their families and carers.

41. 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 last meeting of the Panel took place on 15 September 2016 and it was anticipated the final report will be reported to OSC and Governance Committee in November 2016.

42. Forward Plan – October 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:

November 2016

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk Policy 2016 – Provisional Referral

43. Closure of Meeting

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

B A Smith
Chair