

A MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WAS HELD ON 9 JUNE 2015

Councillors Allen (P), Mrs Batty (P) Beavis (Chairman) (P), Forder (P), Mrs Forder(P), Foster-Reed (P), Geddes(P), Gill (P) Hazel (P), Hylands (P), Scard (P) Mrs Wright

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Order 2.3.6, Councillor Mrs Cully had been nominated to replace Councillor Mrs Wright for this meeting.

6. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor Mrs Wright.

7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

8. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4 DECEMBER 2014

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 March, 17 March and 21 May 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman a true and correct record.

9. REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED

Consideration was given to a report summarising the Council's approach to Equality & Diversity and progress on the Council's corporate activities which ensure compliance to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act 2010.

The Committee were advised that there were no recorded complaints regarding equality and diversity in the last 12 months and that general complaint statistics were reported to the Standards and Governance Committee.

The Committee were advised that as statistical recording methods of external organisations changed, the Council adjusted recording methods accordingly.

Members discussed the proposed move of the Police Station into the Town Hall. It was requested that clear publicity around any change in location of services be given.

Members were advised that previous relocation of offices in the Town Hall had worked well and that staff would assist customers as required.

In answer to a Member's question, it was recognised that Elected Members promoted equality to constituents by providing access to them in a number of different ways.

Members noted the report.

9ii. INTERPRETATION BOARDS

The Committee were advised that the change in municipal year meant the Working Group had reduced to two Members, Councillors Hylands and Mrs Batty duly volunteered to sit on the Working Group.

Councillors Mrs Forder and Scard gave a brief overview of the Group to date. The Committee were advised that packs of information regarding the condition and content of the existing boards had been distributed and would be given to new Members of the Group.

Members requested that a meeting be organised as soon as possible and that the ownership of each board needed to be established.

The Committee were advised that there was funding in the Capital Programme for works to the Boards.

Members recognised the importance of the work undertaken by and contribution of the Gosport Society and felt that the Friends of Stokes Bay may also provide valuable input.

It was hoped that the new Working Group could push the Scrutiny forward with the help and expertise of the Gosport Society.

9iii. PUBLIC ACCESS TO FORT BROCKHURST

A meeting had taken place with English Heritage and they had agreed to return to the group in September with a draft management plan for the site. The Committee were advised that both Councillors and the voluntary sector had been written to for their views. A response had been received from GVA and passed to English Heritage.

GVA had suggested that the Fort should be used to hold events like craft fayres and that many community groups would welcome the opportunity to use the Fort for storage, but that access issues would need to improve. The Committee were advised of the change in set up of English Heritage, with the introduction of Historic England and the differing responsibilities of each function.

It was agreed that Councillors Scard, Allen Mrs Batty, Forder, Beavis and Hazel would sit on the working group.

9iv BUS SERVICES WORKING GROUP

Members were updated that the Group had met with the voluntary sector and had discussed any potential options for support.

It was recognised that even a service provided by the voluntary sector would require funding and that it would be beneficial to better publicise services that already existed. The Older Person's Forum had agreed to do this and to contact Community Action Fareham.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF A WORK PROGRAMME

A) REQUESTS FOR SCRUTINY

None had been received.

B) WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was updated to include Access to Fort Brockhurst and Interpretation Panels.

C) OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR SCRUTINY

A Member requested that a scrutiny be undertaken into the Council's handling of Gosfest.

The Committee were advised that the Council had received no booking of its land for Gosfest prior to the provisional booking of Stokes Bay in March 2015.

It was acknowledged that the organisers of Gosfest had been selling tickets with no venue or Walpole Park listed on the tickets, but that no booking for Walpole Park had ever been made.

In answer to a Member's question, the Committee were advised that as soon the provisional booking for Stokes Bay was received, the Council had published a statement setting out its position.

It was agreed not to undertake the scrutiny.

33. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

The meeting concluded at 7.06pm

CHAIRMAN