A meeting of the Overview Joint Scrutiny Commission was held at the Town Hall, Nuneaton, on Tuesday, 22\textsuperscript{nd} October, 2012.

\textbf{Present}

Councillor G.D. Pomfrett - Chair


Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P.J. Gilbert, N.G. Grant, A.A. Lloyd, G. Smith, K. Young, Mrs. L. Price and Mr. M. Perkins D. O'Brien

\textbf{Minutes}

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 31\textsuperscript{st} May, 2012 be approved, subject to the deletion of the reference to Councillor J.A. Jackson’s declaration of interest and subject to Councillor B.L. Hawkes’ interest being amended to read “Councillor B.L. Hawkes declared a personal interest in any item by reason of his son being an employee of the Housing Department”.

\textbf{Declarations of Interest}

Councillor C.M. Watkins declared an Other Interest in any item by reason of him being a member of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Leisure Trust Board.

Councillor B.L. Hawkes declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any item by reason of his son being an employee of the Housing Department.

Councillors B.J. Longdon and J.A. Tandy both declared an Other Interest in any item by reason of them being members of Warwickshire County Council.

\textbf{Chairs’ Reports}

(a) The report of the Chair of the Economic and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Councillor B.L. Hawkes, was considered.
RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

(b) The report of the Chair of the Housing, Health and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Councillor S. Doughty was considered.

Concern was raised about the poor take up in respect of the MOTIV8 programme and that Members had not been informed of the data collated.

Members were assured that the Health and Inequalities Working Group would take this information into account when the report of the group was prepared.

Members also raised the fact that, as the poor uptake had been from Wem Brook Ward, the remit should be widened this time to include other areas.

Concern was also expressed about the lack of this type of research information on the web site under ‘Freedom of Information’ since the web site had been upgraded.

Councillor Longdon stated that he considered that Warwickshire County Council had completely abandoned the ‘Narrowing the Gap’ agenda.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

(c) The report of the Chair of the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel, Councillor D.C. Navarro was considered.

The question of the Borough Plan was raised and it was stated that the Borough Plan would go out for consultation later next year.

Certain Members hoped that a lot of scrutiny and discussion would take place on the Borough Plan before this stage.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted.

Legislative Changes (Localism Act)

The Director - Governance and Recreation gave a presentation on the various changes brought about by the Localism Act, which included:

Change in the rules in respect of the Forward Plan - 28 days notice now required in respect of a Key Decision;

Confidential items - 28 days notice now required before these items can be considered in order to give the public a chance of being involved in the decision;
Any Member can now request items to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Panel; and

The role of Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairs is now to include being consulted if an urgent decision is required to be made.

Members were very concerned about the increased bureaucracy, the consequences and the practical application of these changes and some thought that the Council should make its views known immediately to the DCLG, although other Members thought that we should wait until the system is operational before forming opinions.

Members were reminded to return their Declarations of Interest forms and that further training on declarations of interest, etc. was being arranged.

**RESOLVED** that officers should continue as at present in implementing the changes, in order to comply with the regulations, and to carry on pressing the DCLG for clarification, as required, and, if necessary, at a later date the Council to make formal representations about the Localism Act.

**Opportunities to Scrutinise**

The Principal Democratic Services Officer gave a presentation on how the various changes to the Act have added to the power of scrutiny:

The use of Call-In Procedures to scrutinise Cabinet decisions;

Use of Call-In for further consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels;

The removal of limitations making it easier to scrutinise outside organisations, partners, etc.; and

Overview and Scrutiny has wider powers and Members can dictate much more what is on the agenda.

Discussions with Warwickshire County Council re joint working which could enhance our ability to obtain any information required.

Members expressed concern that the County was dictating on matters of health and that they need to liaise with district councils.
RESOLVED that

(a) the presentation be noted; and

(b) a current list of those who are under duty to co-operate be circulated to Members of the Commission.

194 Balanced Score Card

The new style information on Strategic Performance was presented to the Commission.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

195 Updated Work Programme

The Principal Democratic Services Officer presented the work programmes for the three Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

Members were informed of 3 additional items to be considered for inclusion within the Overview and Scrutiny Panel work programme as follows:

1. Tenant Scrutiny - Housing, Health and Communities

2. Housing and Redecoration Allowance (including Review of Allowances) - Housing Health and Communities


RESOLVED that the updated work programmes be noted.

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Chair