NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW JOINT SCRUTINY COMMISSION

3rd April, 2014

A meeting of the Overview Joint Scrutiny Commission was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton, on Thursday, 3rd April, 2014.

Present


Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors D. Fowler, V.J.N. Fowler, P.D. Hickling, D. O’Brien, J. Sheppard, W.H. Sheppard and G. Smith

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th October, 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Declarations of Interest

(a) Councillors J.B. Beaumont, B.L. Hawkes and K.A. Kondakor declared Other Interests in any items by reason of them being members of Warwickshire County Council.

(b) Councillor C. Watkins declared an Other Interest by reason of him being the Community Safety Ambassador for Arbury and Stockingford.

(c) Councillor K.D. Wilson declared an Other Interest in any item by virtue of his employment with Nuneaton County Court and Warwickshire Family Proceeding Court and as a Governor of Etone School.

Individual Electoral Registration

Liz Read from the Cabinet Office gave a presentation on the current position regarding the introduction of Individual Registration and explained that some of the reasons for its introduction was to modernise the system, improve integrity and increase security as every applicant will have their identity verified or confirmed.
She explained that the Government was to fully fund, by formulaic grant, the cost of transition to Individual Electoral Registration to cover the cost of equipment and stationery, etc.

She informed Members that a Cabinet Office Project Board had been set up with a Panel of Electoral Registration Officers to advise and assist.

She explained that after consultation, it had been agreed that the 1st July, 2014 Register could be matched with the Department of Works and Pension records. It was thought that local data matching could match another 4,000 people and those not matched would then have to be written to. Super canvassers would be employed to obtain up to date information from old persons homes and information regarding rising 18s could be obtained from schools.

The new system would commence immediately following the elections in May.

Members asked various questions and made various comments regarding the new system on which there were differing views.

**RESOLVED** that

(a) the presentation be noted; and

(b) Liz Read be thanked for attending the meeting.

463 **Chairs’ Reports**

The following reports on progress during the year 2012/13 were presented:

(a) Report of the Economic and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chair - presented by Councillor K.D. Wilson (Vice-Chair)

(b) Report of the Housing, Health and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chair - presented by Councillor C.M. Watkins (Chair)

(c) Report of the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chair - presented by Councillor G. Glass (Chair)

**RESOLVED** that

(i) the reports be noted and approved for submission to Council on the 16th April, 2013;
(ii) thanks be given to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels and relevant officers for all the work undertaken during the year;

(iii) if possible, the SLM presentation be sent to Members;

(iv) information regarding the renewal of the DeCaux contract be presented to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Panel; and

(v) information be published on the web regarding the fact that guide dogs are excluded from the Dog Control Orders.

464 Draft Work Programmes 2014/15

The Principal Democratic Services Officer (Committees) presented the draft work programmes for 2014/15.

RESOLVED that

(a) the draft work programmes for 2014/15 be noted;

(b) the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Panels be requested to consider whether the following items should be added to their work programmes for 2014/15:

Borough Council Budget as well as Warwickshire County Council and Police Commission Budgets
Bailiffs
Riding for the Disabled
George Eliot Hospital

465 Overview and Scrutiny Performance

(a) Monitoring of Cabinet Responses to Overview and Scrutiny – Recommendations and Implementations of Cabinet Decisions

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented the report on the above.

RESOLVED that:

(i) the report be noted; and

(ii) in future reports, details regarding the recommendations agreed and implemented by Cabinet be stated both in figures and percentage terms.
(b) **Questionnaire Results**

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer presented the key comments arising from the returned questionnaires.

Suggestions were made as follows:

(i) it would be useful in future for the actual questionnaire to be included with the comments; and

(ii) a paper copy of the questionnaire should be given out at the beginning of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting to increase the returns from Members.

**RESOLVED** that the results of the questionnaire be noted.

__________________________
Chair