A meeting of the Overview Joint Scrutiny Commission was held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton, on Thursday, 12th June, 2014.

Present


OSC1 Selection of Chair

Councillor W.J. Hancox nominated Councillor G.D. Pomfrett as Chair for the ensuing year 2014-2015 which was seconded by Councillor B.J. Longden.

Councillor J. Foster nominated Councillor K.D. Wilson, which was seconded by Councillor R. Tromans

A vote was taken as follows:

Councillor G.D. Pomfrett 14
Councillor J. Sheppard 5

RESOLVED that Councillor G.D. Pomfrett be appointed as Chair for the ensuing year 2014/15.

Councillor Pomfrett took the Chair and welcomed the new Members and co-opted members to the meeting.

OSC2 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor T.E. Sheppard.

OSC3 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April, 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.
OSC4  **Declarations of Interest**

(a) Councillors K.A. Kondakor, S. Doughty and C.S. Phillips declared Other Interests in any item by reason of them being Members of Warwickshire County Council.

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

(c) Councillor D.C. Navarro declared an Other Interest in any item by reason of him being a non-executive director of the Board of the George Eliot Hospital Trust.

(d) Councillor K. Wilson declared an Other Interest in any items by reason of his employment with the County Court.

(e) Councillor S.J. Margrave declared Other Interests in any item by reason of his employment with Orbit Housing, his membership of the General Synod of the Church of England and him being a Research Student at Warwick University.

OSC5  **Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service**

The proposals for the reduction in the number of fire engines for the Nuneaton and Bedworth area, which would involve the transfer of the engine from Bedworth to Atherstone from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m., leaving only one engine during the day were discussed.

Concern was expressed that no-one had been invited from the County Council to attend the meeting to explain the reason for the change, although it was pointed out that full details were available on the County Council website.

Consultation on this matter ends on the 20th June, 2014 and it was explained that events had been held at Community Forums and roadshows had taken place, one of these being in the Rope Walk.

However, Members felt that they had had little opportunity to consider the matter because of the elections and generally the process had been a sham with no proper consultation.

It was advised that the matter had been discussed at the Abbey and Wem Brook Forum and attendees had been given forms to take away to object to the proposal.
It was felt that reducing to one fire engine during the day would have an impact on safety and was detrimental to local people and that the proposal was creating a worse service for Nuneaton and Bedworth worse whilst improving the service for rural areas.

However, Members were advised that the fire engines deal mainly with road traffic accidents and very few fires.

**RESOLVED** that a response be sent to Warwickshire County Council:

(a) stating that this matter should be the subject of proper consultation;

(b) seeking an extension of the consultation period until after the current round of Forum meetings; and

(c) stating that this Panel on behalf of the Council does not support the proposal.

**OSC6 Work Programme 2014/15**

The work programmes for 2014/2015 for each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels was considered.

**RESOLVED** that

(a) delegated authority be given to the Director – Governance and Recreation, in consultation with the Chair of the Overview Joint Scrutiny Commission, to approve the work programmes for 2014/15;

(b) the Chair of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Panels consults the members of his/her relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel at the first meeting on the priority of and how to deal with the individual items on the work programme; and

(c) where there is an important project which involves the County Council:

   (i) a representative of the County Council be invited to attend the meeting; and

   (ii) these projects be considered earlier rather then later in the work programme.
OSC7  **Strategic Performance Report (end of year)**

The Strategic Performance Report (end of year) was considered.

Concern was expressed that there was no officer present to be able to answer questions on the matter.

Members wished to know how the particular risks were being managed.

The performance in respect of personal development reviews was raised and it was hoped that there were plans in place to improve the situation.

**RESOLVED** that

(a) the report be noted; and

(b) it be noted that more detailed information would be available at the meetings of the individual Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

_______________________________
Chair