

Open

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda

To be held remotely
6pm
Thursday, 3rd June 2021



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Members of Committee:

Chairman: Councillor M J Hart
Vice-Chairman: Councillor S E N Rook

Councillor S J Chambers
Councillor P Dyke
Councillor S Griffiths
Councillor S Miah
Councillor D R Sheppard

Councillor N J Desmond
Councillor C Edginton-White
Councillor A L L'Huillier
Councillor T L Onslow

Would Members please note that, to ensure continuity in scrutiny, substitutes should only be appointed for the Scrutiny Committee in exceptional circumstances.

Information for Members of the Public:

Part I of the Agenda includes items for discussion in public. You have the right to inspect copies of Minutes and reports on this Agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Part II of the Agenda (if applicable) deals with items of "Exempt Information" for which it is anticipated that the public may be excluded from the meeting and neither reports nor background papers are open to public inspection.

1. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting is open to the public except for any exempt/confidential items. These items are normally discussed at the end of the meeting. Where a meeting is held remotely, "open" means available for live or subsequent viewing.
2. Members of the public will be able to hear and see the meetings by a live stream on the Council's website:

<https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/streaming.aspx>
3. This meeting is being held remotely online and will be recorded for play back. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. All streamed footage is the copyright of Wyre Forest District Council.

Declaration of Interests by Members – interests of members in contracts and other matters

Declarations of Interest are a standard item on every Council and Committee agenda and each Member must provide a full record of their interests in the Public Register.

In addition, alongside the Register of Interest, the Members Code of Conduct ("the Code") requires the Declaration of Interests at meetings. Members have to decide first whether or not they have a disclosable interest in the matter under discussion.

Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's constitution for full details.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) / Other Disclosable Interest (ODI)

DPI's and ODI's are interests defined in the Code of Conduct that has been adopted by the District.

If you have a DPI (as defined in the Code) in a matter being considered at a meeting of the Council (as defined in the Code), the Council's Standing Orders require you to leave the room where the meeting is held, for the duration of any discussion or voting on that matter.

If you have an ODI (as defined in the Code) you will need to consider whether you need to leave the room during the consideration of the matter.

Co-opted Members

Scrutiny Committees may wish to appoint Co-Opted Members to sit on their committee in order to add value to the scrutiny process. To appoint a Co-Opted Member, a Committee must first agree to appoint either a specific person or to approach a relevant organisation to request that they put forward a suitable representative (e.g. the local Police Authority). Co-Optees are non voting by default but Committees can decide to appoint voting rights to a Co-Optee. The Co-Option of the Member will last no longer than the remainder of the municipal year.

Scrutiny Committees can at any meeting agree to terminate the Co-Option of a Co-Opted Member with immediate effect. Where an organisation is appointed to put forward a Co-Opted Member, they are able to send a substitute in exceptional circumstances, provided that they notify Democratic Services in advance. Co-Opted Members must sign up to the Members Code of Conduct before attending their first meeting, failure to sign will mean that they are unable to participate. This also applies to substitute Co-Opted Members, who will need to allow sufficient time before a meeting in order to sign the Code of Conduct.

The following will apply:

- i) The total number of voting co-opted members on any Scrutiny Committee will not exceed 25% at any one time.
- ii) The total number of voting Co-opted Members on any Review Panel will not be limited.
- iii) Those Co-opted Members with voting rights will exercise their rights in accordance with the principles of decision making set out in the constitution.

For Further information:

If you have any queries about this Agenda or require any details of background papers, further documents or information, you should contact Louisa Bright, Principal Committee and Member Services Officer, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF. Telephone: 01562 732763 or email louisa.bright@wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Wyre Forest District Council
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 3rd June 2021

To be held remotely

Part 1

Open to the press and public

Agenda item	Subject	Page Number
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Appointment of Substitute Members To receive the name of any Councillor who is to act as a substitute, together with the name of the Councillor for whom he/she is acting.	
3.	Declarations of Interests by Members In accordance with the Code of Conduct, to invite Members to declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI's) and / or Other Disclosable Interests (ODI's) in the following agenda items and indicate the action that they will be taking when the item is considered. Please see the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Section 14 of the Council's Constitution for full details.	
4.	Minutes To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13th May 2021.	6
5.	Kidderminster Future High Streets Fund – Update To consider a report from the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWEDR) which provides an update on the progress of the Kidderminster Future High Streets Fund programme.	10
6.	Work Programme To review the work programme for the current municipal year with regard to the Corporate Plan Priority, Annual Priorities and the Forward Plan.	15
7.	Press Involvement To consider any future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.	

8.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	
9.	Exclusion of the Press and Public To consider passing the following resolution: “That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of “exempt information” as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act”.	

Part 2

Not open to the Press and Public

10.	Kidderminster Property Acquisitions To receive a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place to agree the acquisition of properties in Kidderminster.	
11.	To consider any other business, details of which have been communicated to the Solicitor of the Council before the commencement of the meeting, which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances considers to be of so urgent a nature that it cannot wait until the next meeting.	

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
HELD REMOTELY
THURSDAY, 13TH MAY 2021 (6PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), S E N Rook (Vice-Chairman), S J Chambers, N J Desmond, P Dyke, C Edginton-White, S Griffiths, A L L'Huillier, T L Onslow, D R Sheppard and A Totty.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger, J F Byng, A Coleman, R H Coleman, H E Dyke, N Martin and C Rogers.

OS.01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S Miah.

OS.02 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor A Totty was appointed as a substitute for Councillor S Miah.

OS.03 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

Councillor S Rook joined the meeting at 6.04pm.

OS.04 Minutes

Decision: The minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OS.05 “How are we doing?” Q4 update (Housing and Planning)

The Committee considered a report from the Business Improvement Officer which updated members on the performance of the Council for quarter 4, from 1st January to 31st March 2021.

The Business Improvement Officer presented the report and appendices which included an exception report for all purposes detailing actions that were approaching their due date or were overdue; detailed reports of performance against the purposes of ‘Planning’ and ‘Housing’; and a report on the Capital Projects.

The Committee considered each page of the report and appendices in turn and agreed to note the update.

Agreed: The progress in performance for quarter 4 be noted.

In relation to agenda item no. 7 - Update from Worcestershire County Council – Flooding Outcomes, the Chairman advised that the County Council Officers felt it was appropriate for the relevant Cabinet Member to attend the meeting with them. As the Cabinet had not yet been appointed, representatives will attend a future meeting of the Committee to provide an update.

Councillor N Desmond joined the meeting at 6.13pm and Councillor D Sheppard joined at 6.20pm.

OS.06 Update from the Environment Agency – Flooding Outcomes

The Committee received an update from the Environment Agency (EA) on the flooding in January 2021.

Dave Throup, Environment Manager Hereford & Worcestershire, gave a brief presentation which provided a summary of the events on the latest bout of flooding because of Storm Christoph. Members were advised that the flooding was due to large but not exceptional upland rainfall, the rivers Severn and Wyre were most impacted, driven by Welsh water. The river Severn levels were similar but slightly lower than the levels recorded in February 2020 and was the third highest on record at Bewdley.

He added that there was much less impact on smaller rivers and surface water which was reflected in the damage that was done across the Severn catchment. Unfortunately, there were approximately 100 properties flooded, some of which were in Bewdley, however over 1000 properties were protected as a result of the flood defences during that period. He said the flooding event was a continuation of the trend of severe flood events over the last few years.

Dave Edwards, Partnership & Strategic Overview Team Leader, gave a brief update on their response to the incident and how the EA staff and assets were deployed to sites across the West Midlands with as little face-to-face contact as possible. He explained that six flood warnings were issued across the Wyre Forest District and a number of flood advisory service teleconferences had been held which enabled the EA to share information and update multi-agency partners on weather forecasts, river levels etc.

The Committee discussed the update. In response to a member question, Dave Edwards advised that the ground investigation works at Beales Corner were ongoing, and the topographic surveys had been completed for both the proposed permanent flood risk management scheme and the investigation into the incident with the temporary flood barriers. He said that the ecological surveys were scheduled to be carried out in late May / early June and they would be used to help with the design of the proposed permanent scheme. He added that the project team were planning to organise a wider community event in July. Members were advised that the temporary barrier post incident review was currently on schedule. It was hoped that the results will be shared with partners in the summer.

Dave Throup assured the Committee that the EA were committed to getting the

Agenda Item No. 4

permanent scheme done in Bewdley and the delivery of the project remained a priority for them.

The Chairman thanked the EA representatives for the updates and for attending this and previous meetings.

Agreed: The update be noted.

OS.07 Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan Update

The Committee considered a report from the Principal Health and Sustainability Officer which provided an update on work to improve health and wellbeing in Wyre Forest and to seek endorsement of the new Wyre Forest Health Action Plan 2021-22.

The Principal Health and Sustainability Officer led members through the report and outlined the key issues.

The Committee discussed the report and acknowledged the hard work of the team of Officers in delivering the plan during the Pandemic. Members welcomed the work around the mental health advice and awareness. The Committee unanimously supported the recommendation.

Decision: Recommend to Cabinet that the Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Health Action Plan 2021-22, as attached at Appendix 1 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, is approved.

OS.08 Kidderminster 2040 – A Town Centre Vision

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place which set out the vision for the future of Kidderminster Town Centre for the next 20 years.

The Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place presented the report and outlined the key issues.

The Committee discussed the report. Members agreed that Wyre Forest District Council had a good track record for Economic Development and gave thanks to the Corporate Director and his team for their hard work. The Committee agreed that the document provided a high level direction of travel for building for the future and unanimously supported the recommendation.

Decision: Recommend to Cabinet that the Kidderminster 2040 Vision is agreed.

OS.09 Work Programme

The Committee reviewed the work programme for the new municipal year.

OS.10 Press Involvement

There were no future items for scrutiny that might require publicity.

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There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.32pm.

The full meeting is available for viewing on the Council's website

<https://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/your-council/councillors-committees-and-meetings/council-meetings/>



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Ostap Paparega, Head of North Worcestershire
Economic Development and Regeneration (NWedR)
Date: Thursday 3 June 2021
Open

Kidderminster Future High Streets Fund - Update

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides members with an update on the progress of the Kidderminster Future High Streets Fund programme.

2. Background

- 2.1 In March 2019, the Council responded to the government's call (launched in late December 2018) for transformational town centre proposals under the newly established Future High Streets Fund. In August 2019 the Council was notified that its Expression of Interest (EoI) application was one of the first 50 successful expressions of interest to be approved and the Council was awarded £150k and invited to develop and submit a full HM Treasury Green Book compliant business case. Following the government's re-scheduling of the deadline for submitting the full business case due to the impact of the Covid19 pandemic, the Council finally submitted its case in June 2020.
- 2.2 Against a programme envelope of up to £25m per authority, the Council's bid was for £20.51m comprising interlinked elements which would enable the continued delivery of the strategy to re-balance the town on its west/east axis and improve outcomes for the eastern side of the town.
- 2.3 The bid included the following projects:
1. The improvement of the former Crown House site and Bullring as a gateway into the town centre with wider public open space, a multi-functional market and events space and the release of commercial development potential of the site.
 2. The acquisition of key properties in Worcester Street to improve access to the Lionfields area and the rationalisation of the excess parking capacity on the Council's Bromsgrove Street car park to release the potential for a commercial development site; and
 3. The complete refurbishment and transformation of the former Magistrates' Court and indoor market on Worcester Street into a new Creative Hub for businesses in the digital and creative industries sectors.

- 2.4 On 26th December 2020, the Government announced the award of funding for projects across the country under the Future High Streets Fund Programme and the Council was one of only 15 successful applicants to be awarded funding unconditionally - the full £20.5m grant ask - the fifth highest award of all bidders.

3. Progress

- 3.1 Despite the delay in the decision on the funding award, the deadline for spending the monies received remains at March 2024. This has meant that a number of workstreams have had to be accelerated in order to ensure the Council is able to deliver the projects in a timely manner. An update on key programme related tasks as well as a status update for each of the projects is included in this section of the report.
- 3.2 Since the Council was awarded the funding a number of key actions have been undertaken. Firstly, the governance arrangements were agreed and a Future High Streets Fund Programme Board has been established to oversee the delivery. The governance arrangements are shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Discussions have also been ongoing with MHCLG to understand contract and monitoring and evaluation requirements. A draft Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been submitted to MHCLG to review and this will then form the basis of evaluating the Council's progress against the outcomes and the outputs that are associated with the fund.
- 3.4 The Council has also recently appointed professional support in the form of project and cost control managers who will help to oversee the delivery of the projects and will report into the Programme Board. The work undertaken by the project managers will also be used to feed in to the monitoring and evaluation requirements and will also form part of the future reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.5 In addition to establishing the administration and governance requirements, Officers have also been progressing actions in relation to each of the three projects that form the basis of the fund. An update on each of these projects is provided in turn below:

Former Magistrates Court

- Architect-led multidisciplinary team re-appointed to undertake next stages of work.
- Designs are being refined and survey work being undertaken, including:
 - Initial clearance and removal of debris
 - Topographical surveys
 - Drainage Survey
 - Site Investigation
 - Noise Impact Assessment
 - Heritage Assessment

- Ecology Assessment
- This information will help to inform the planning submission, which is due to be submitted in the summer 2021. It is also proposed that there will be pre-application consultation in advance of the planning submission.
- The professional team appointed will prepare and the planning application and will provide the technical drawings and tender specification for the procurement of a contractor to undertake the works.

Worcester Street / Bromsgrove Street Connectivity

- The Council has appointed agents to oversee discussions on the acquisitions of buildings, which will be demolished to deliver the east-west connectivity.
- Work is advanced in relation to the acquisitions and one property has already been acquired.
- It is anticipated that deals to acquire the remaining properties required for the project will complete over the summer.
- Surveys to evaluate potential asbestos removal requirements, the feasibility of demolishing the buildings and indicative demolition costs have all been undertaken.

Former Crown House / Bull Ring

- Survey work instructed to assess condition of culvert and slab.
- This work will inform further design considerations for the site and the decision to open or not the culvert at this location.
- This further design work will be led by the newly appointed project manager.

3.6 In addition to the work that will be undertaken through the FHSF, some of the sites also present further development opportunities. Therefore, discussions are ongoing in relation to the opportunities that are created through the FHSF proposals, as they will form an important component of the overall regeneration of the town centre.

3.7 Finally, a communications and engagement plan has been produced. This will be published shortly and identifies how the Council will consult and engage with key stakeholders at the main stages of project delivery.

4. Next Steps

4.1 Detailed project plans have been produced for each project, but the main tasks over the next six months include the following activities:

- Concluding negotiations on planned acquisitions.

- Preparing further feasibility and design work for the former Crown House Site and the Worcester Street / Bromsgrove Street connectivity work.
- Secure planning consent for the FMC project.
- Soft market testing (developers / end users).
- Prepare a report on the management arrangements for the Creative Hub (former Magistrates Court).
- Stakeholder engagement and communication.

Further update reports will be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at regular intervals during the delivery of the programme.

5. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Kidderminster FHSF Programme Governance

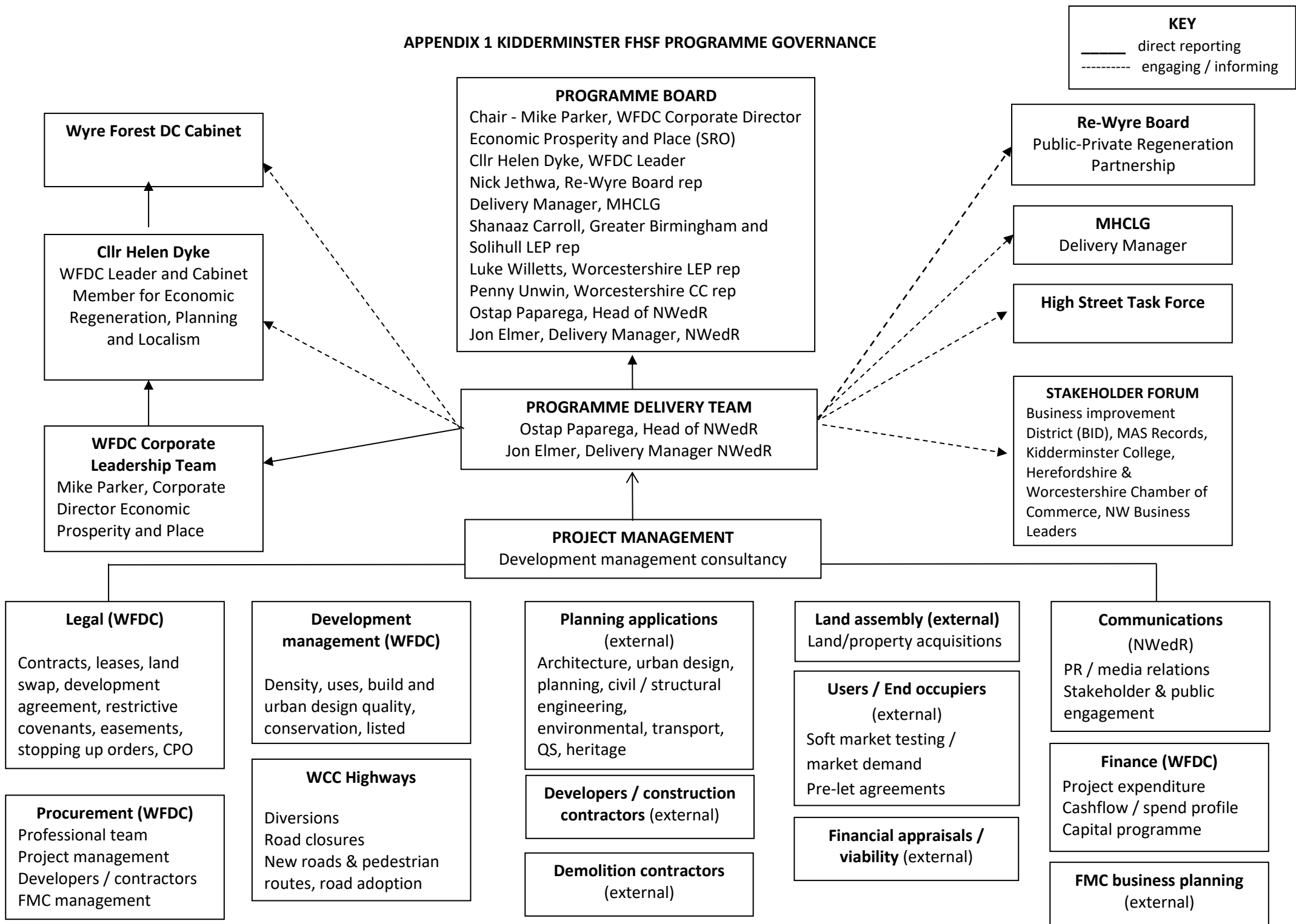
Officer Contact Details:

Name: Ostap Paparega

Title: Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWedR)

Contact Number: 01562 732192

APPENDIX 1 KIDDERMINSTER FHSF PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE



**Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Work Programme 2021-2022**

May 2021

“How are we doing?” Q4 update (Housing and Planning)
Update from the Environment Agency – Flooding Outcomes
Wyre Forest Health and Wellbeing Plan Update (Recs to Cabinet)
Kidderminster 2040 - A Town Centre Vision

June 2021

Kidderminster Future High Street Fund – Update
Kidderminster Property Acquisitions – EXEMPT

July 2021

Nominations for Treasury Management Review Panel
Update from the WCC – Flooding Outcomes

September 2021

“How are we doing?” Q1 update
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
Backward Look 2020/21
Recommendations from the Fireworks Review Panel
Capital Portfolio Fund Quarterly Performance Report (Qtr ending June 2021) –
EXEMPT Appendix

November 2021

“How are we doing?” Q2 update
Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year
Review Report 2021-22

December 2021

Update on Future High Streets Programme delivery

February 2022

“How are we doing?” Q3 update
Treasury Management Strategy 2022-23