

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

COUNCIL CHAMBER, WYRE FOREST HOUSE, FINEPOINT WAY, KIDDERMINSTER

THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2022 (4.30PM)

Present:

Councillors: M J Hart (Chairman), N J Desmond, P Dyke and C Edginton-White.

Observers

Councillors: G W Ballinger, I Hardiman and F M Oborski MBE.

Observed remotely: Councillor H E Dyke

OSSC.01 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

OSSC.02 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

OSSC.03 Declarations of Interests by Members

No declarations of interest were made.

OSSC.04 Exempt Information

Decision: 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of “Exempt Information” as defined in paragraphs 2, 6 and 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

OSSC.05 Acquisition of Property in Kidderminster

The Sub-committee considered a draft of a confidential Cabinet report from the Head of North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWedR) which sought the Cabinet’s agreement to proceed with purchase of property in Kidderminster in order to deliver the project that is being funded from the Government’s £17.9m Levelling Up Fund (LUF) grant.

Councillor H Dyke joined the meeting remotely at 4.42pm.

The Head of NWedR presented the report. He gave a comprehensive and thorough explanation of the proposal. The Head of NWedR explained that the proposal was a key element of the LUF bid.

Agenda Item No. 4

The Sub-committee fully scrutinised the report and took the opportunity to question the Head of NWedR on several issues where further clarification was needed.

Several members raised concerns about the proposal. It was felt that the level of risk that the Council would be exposed to was too high.

Councillor G Ballinger joined the meeting at 5.29pm.

As a result of the concerns raised, a proposal to recommend not to proceed with the acquisition was moved and seconded. Upon a show of hands, the majority of the Committee voted in favour of the motion, which was therefore carried.

Decision: The Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee recommend to Cabinet not to proceed with the proposal.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 5.29pm.