

28 July 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the **Overview & Scrutiny Committee** South
Staffordshire Council held in the Council Chamber Council Offices, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, South Staffordshire, WV8 1PX on Tuesday, 12 July 2016 at 18:30

Present:-

Councillor Jeff Ashley (Member), Councillor Meg Barrow (Member), Councillor Len Bates (Member), Councillor Joyce Bolton (Member), Councillor Barry Bond (Member), Councillor Val Chapman (Member), Councillor David Clift (Member), Councillor Bob Cope (Member), Councillor Brian Cox (Member), Councillor Mike Davies (Member), Councillor Lisa Emery (Member), Councillor Paul Fieldhouse (Member), Councillor Rita Heseltine (Member), Councillor Lin Hingley (Member), Councillor Alan Hinton (Member), Councillor Steve Hollis (Member), Councillor Diane Holmes (Member), Councillor Keith James (Member), Councillor Peter Lever (Member), Councillor Henryk Lobuczek (Member), Councillor Dave Lockley (Member), Councillor Robert Marshall (Member), Councillor Terry Mason (Member), Councillor John Michell (Member), Councillor Roy Moreton (Member), Councillor Kath Perry (Chairman), Councillor Ray Perry (Member), Councillor Christine Raven (Member), Councillor John Raven (Member), Councillor Wendy Sutton (Member), Councillor Ken Upton (Member), Councillor Bernard Williams (Member), Councillor Henry Williams (Member), Councillor Reg Williams (Member)

CABINET MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors: Mary Bond - Cabinet Member for Environmental Services; Brian Edwards – Leader of the Council; Roger Lees - Cabinet Member for Public Health Protection Services; Bob McCardle - Cabinet Member for Strategic Services; Robert Reade - Cabinet Member for Support Services; Roy Wright - Cabinet Member for Direct Services

6 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny meeting held on the 24 May 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman

7 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Bourke, M Ewart, J Johnson, D Williams and K Williams

8 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

9 **PROVISION OF SCHOOL CROSSING PATROLS IN SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE**

The Committee received the report of the Monitoring Officer. Councillor Ashley discussed the reasons for the Councillor Call for Action as detailed within the report.

In the course of the conversation which followed it was confirmed by the Community Infrastructure Manager, Staffordshire County Council that:

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1. The County Council operated 250 Crossing Patrols.
2. There were a number of high priority Crossing Patrols due to the number of children crossing and the amount of traffic.
3. At a number of sites there was a duplication of resource as the Crossing Patrol was situated at a Pelican Crossing, this was the case in Huntington.
4. It was not a statutory function of the County Council to provide Crossing Patrols.
5. Sites were being assessed and discussions were taking place with the local community to understand the implications and to identify if there were opportunities to generate funding to maintain the Crossing Patrols.

It was agreed that the Committee wished to debate the matter.

In the course of the debate it was confirmed that the County Council had to consider what its limited resources should be spent on and that money would be best spent on high priority areas.

1. Patrol vacancies in low priority areas had not been filled since 2010.
2. Of the 250 Crossing Patrol sites, the County Council was considering 30.
3. The County Council provided controlled pedestrian crossings and a range of traffic measures for example 20mph signs and education.
4. Risk assessments would take place and the issue would be discussed with parents to ensure they understood their responsibilities.
5. Alternative funding would need to be found to continue the Crossing Patrols being considered as the County Council was not in a position to continue to fund these going forward.
6. Councillor Ashley referred to a traffic survey that he had undertaken at the Huntingdon Patrol Crossing sites highlighting the extent of the traffic on the roads between 8am-9am and 3:00-3:45/3:50pm. It was confirmed that a County Council traffic survey had counted 476 vehicles in a half hour period.
7. If there were adverse weather conditions it was the parent's responsibility to ensure that children crossed the road safely.
8. If the pedestrian crossing lights failed the County Council would attend as soon as possible.
9. Parents were responsible for ensuring that children reached school safely.

Members debated the issues and raised their concerns.

The Community Infrastructure Manager, Staffordshire County Council clarified that of the 250 Crossing Patrol sites, 30 were being reviewed and of these 3 were in South Staffordshire District.

It was proposed by Councillor Ashley and seconded by Councillor Clift that the Committee did not support the withdrawal of Crossing Patrols and that this matter should be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

Following a vote it was agreed that the proposal be supported by the Committee.

RESOLVED: that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee refer the matter to the Cabinet for consideration and that this matter is reported back to the Committee by the Cabinet.

10 COUNCIL PLAN 2012 - 2016 FINAL OUTTURN RESULTS

The Committee received a report of the Leader of the Council

RESOLVED: that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree the Council Plan 2012-16 final outturn results

11 PORTFOLIO PLANS 2015 - 2016 OUTCOMES

The Committee received a report of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members.

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Cabinet Members discussed their portfolio's as detailed within the report.

RESOLVED:

1. that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee accept the outcomes of the six Portfolio Plans 2015/16.
2. that the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services report back to the Committee on how residents would be made aware of the removal of recycling pods.

12 **THE CAR PARK OFF STATION ROAD, CODSALL - VARIATION OF LEASE BETWEEN THE COUNCIL AND WEST MIDLANDS CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY**

The Committee considered a report of the Leader of the Council

The proposal for a restriction on Codsall's Public Car Park of: 4 hours, no return within 1 hour, Monday-Friday not including bank holidays, from 8:00am – 4:00pm was put forward by Councillor Barrow, seconded by Councillor Marshall and agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED: that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree that the Director of Legal and Public Health Protection enter into discussions with the Co-Op to vary the existing lease between the Council and the Co-Op regarding the car park off Station Road, Codsall so that the maximum time permitted to occupy the car park is 4 hours, no return within 1 hour, Monday-Friday not including bank holidays, from 8:00am – 4:00pm.

13 **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The report of the Monitoring Officer was presented.

RESOLVED:

1. that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees the draft work programme as set out at paragraph 4 and agrees to receive a report at each meeting on the progress against the programme.
2. that Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members put forward any suggestions for the Work Programme to the Monitoring Officer and/or the Committee Chairman.

The Meeting ended at: 20:10

CHAIRMAN