

Minutes of a Meeting of the Executive held on Tuesday 7th October 2014 at Pippbrook, Dorking, from 7.00pm to 7.25pm

Present:

Executive Members: Councillors Chris Townsend (Leader/Chairman), James Friend, Vivienne Michael, John Northcott and Charles Yarwood.

Non-Executive Members: Councillors David Draper and David Mir.

29. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 9th September 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman/Leader.

30. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Simon Ling and Paul Newman.

Apologies for absence were also received from the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Stephen Cooksey.

31. Disclosure of Interests

None.

32. Mole Valley Local Cycling Plan

The Executive considered a report on the Local Cycling Plan for Mole Valley which had been developed by the Local Cycle Plan Working Group in conjunction with the Mole Valley Local Committee. Councillor David Mir, the Chairman of the Working Group, outlined the aims of the Local Cycling Plan, namely to balance the desire to promote cycling as an enjoyable and healthy leisure activity and a sustainable mode of transport with the need to manage the negative consequences caused by the growing popularity of Mole Valley as a cycling destination which were affecting some communities. Extensive consultation had taken place and the input and opinion of key stakeholders had been sought. The priorities and actions within the Cycling Plan had been shaped by the views expressed during the consultation. Councillor Mir confirmed that the Cycling Plan was a living document, and that further consultation and co-operation with key stakeholders was built into a number of the initiatives within the plan in order to achieve the plan's priorities. Councillor Mir thanked the other members of the Working Group and the officers who had supported the Group for their input in developing the Local Cycling Plan.

The Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee reported that the Committee had on the whole been generally supportive of the plan and its aims. The Committee had acknowledged that partnership working would be a key factor underpinning the success of the plan. Specific issues raised by Members related to the inclusion within the plan of safety measures for children cycling to and from school, such as Bike-Ability, how the plan would be publicised and brought to the attention of cyclists, and whether there were any plans to improve the inclusivity of cycling in the deprived areas of the District. A major area of concern had been the interaction between cyclists, and other users of bridleways, such as horse riders and dog walkers, and it had been suggested that the Code of Conduct could be strengthened in this respect. Finally, the Vice-Chairman asked for an update on priority A2(2) regarding participation in the Surrey Commuter Challenge.

The Executive Member for Community and Resident Services stressed the need to balance the promotion of the benefits of cycling with the sometimes negative impact cycling had on communities, and was pleased to note that the Local Cycle Plan recognised this. She noted that Mole Valley District Council's role was, by necessity, often reactive in that cycling events and activities were being actively promoted by other organisations and the Council had then to ensure that the impact on the local community was minimised as far as possible, for example the effect on local businesses and the safety of other road/path users. The Executive Member sought assurances that Members would receive regular updates on the implementation of the Local

Cycling Plan.

The Chairman confirmed that the financial impact on local businesses had been raised with the County Council. He advised that the implementation of the initiatives in the Mole Valley Local Cycle Plan would be monitored and reported to Members. With regard to working with partners and stakeholders, the Chairman of the Local Cycle Plan Working Group reported that the local police would be joining the Surrey Hills AONB Mountain Biking Group, and that the Code of Conduct would be published in local cycling magazines.

The Executive Member for Wellbeing thanked the Local Cycle Plan Working Group for its work on the Cycle Plan. In response to the Scrutiny Committee queries, he advised that BikeAbility and the Surrey Commuter Challenge were both Surrey County Council initiatives and encouraged Members to seek information on these initiatives through the Local Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Local Cycling Plan for Mole Valley, attached at Appendix 1 to the report submitted, be adopted for implementation in conjunction with the Local Committee (Mole Valley).

33. Councillor Question Time

No questions were received.

34. Report of the Scrutiny Committee

The Scrutiny Committee met on 30th September and considered the Mole Valley Local Cycling Plan report which was included on the Executive agenda for 7th October 2014. The Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee, with the approval of the Leader had submitted feedback to the Executive during their consideration of this report, under Minute 32 above. In addition, the Vice-Chairman updated the Executive on other items considered by the Committee, including a presentation on the redesign of the Council website and the Annual Complaints report. The Committee had been encouraged by the work being undertaken by officers in the redesign of the Council's website, particularly the emphasis on making the new website as straightforward and usable as possible for our customers. The Committee was also happy overall with the Council's approach to dealing with and recording complaints.

35. Month 5 2014/15 Budget and Performance Report

The Executive considered a report detailing progress during the year to date with regard to performance indicators and priorities, and the outcome of the monthly budget monitoring exercise for the end of August. The Executive Member for Assets, on behalf of the Executive Member for Finance and Corporate Services, reported that 94% of the Performance Indicators were above or on target, and highlighted a number of areas where performance had exceeded the targets set. The performance of the Council in collecting council tax had been particularly commendable in that Mole Valley District Council had been 3rd out of 326 billing authorities in 2013/14. The Executive Member also outlined the budgetary changes since the last reported position to the Executive.

RESOLVED: That the Council's financial and performance position for Month 5 2014/15 be noted.

36. Amendments to the Appointments of Members onto Outside Organisations

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tim Ashton be appointed to Leatherhead United Charities.