

Minutes of the Meeting of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 1 March 2011

Present:-

Members of the Committee Councillor Sarah Boad
“ Richard Chattaway
“ Barry Lobbett
“ Mike Gittus
“ Phillip Morris-Jones
“ Martin Shaw
“ Ray Sweet
“ John Whitehouse (Chair)
“ Chris Williams

Other County Councillors Councillor Alan Cockburn (Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economy)
Councillor Michael Doody
Councillor Colin Hayfield (Portfolio Holder for Customers, Workforce and Partnerships)
Councillor Richard Hobbs (Portfolio Holder for Community Safety)

Officers Elizabeth Abbott, Performance and Improvement Officer
Vanessa Belton, Business Analyst
Kushal Birla, Head of Customer Service and Communications
David Carter, Strategic Director for Customers, Workforce and Governance
Monica Fogarty, Assistant Chief Executive
Ayub Khan, Head of Libraries - Strategy
Ann Mawdsley, Principal Committee Administrator
Andy McDarmaid, Improvement and Development Manager
Michelle McHugh, Overview and Scrutiny Manager
Lisa Mowe, Deputy Communications Manager – Media & Public Relations
Helen Murphy, Financial Services Manager
Kate Nash, Head of Community Safety and Localities
Chris Nason, Group Manager – Transport for Warwickshire
Greta Needham, Head of Law and Governance
Linda Smith, Head of Libraries - Operations
Julie Sullivan, Corporate Community Safety Manager

Also in

Attendance Mike Downes, Kenilworth Resident

(The order of these minutes is as they appear on the agenda and do not reflect the order in which they were considered).

1. General

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Councillor David Johnston who was attending the meeting as an observer.

(1) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Jeff Clarke.

(2) Members Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Richard Hobbs declared a prejudicial item in the relation to the update on High Speed 2, as one of his relatives could potentially be severely affected by the proposed route.

Councillor Martin Shaw declared a personal interest in item 3 as he carried out a risk assessment on Safe Water and Asbestos on behalf of the County Council approximately 10 years ago.

(3) Minutes of the meetings of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 19 January 2011

The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 19 January 2011 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

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Councillor Phillip Morris-Jones clarified the point he had made that the contract had been bought by Carillion with an explanation at the time that there had been no time to put the contract out for re-tendering. A re-tendering exercise would not have been necessary and the County Council could have awarded the contract to the next best of the other six companies who had originally tendered. This was a lesson that should be learnt for the future.

Matters Arising

None.

(4) Chair's Announcements

Update on the Launch of the public consultation on High Speed Rail 2 (HS2)

The Chair invited Councillor Michael Doody and Chris Nason, Group Manager – Transport for Warwickshire, Environment and Economy Directorate, to give an update on the meeting held on

28 February 2011, where Philip Hammond, the Transport Secretary, launched the public consultation on HS2.

Councillor Michael Doody noted the proposed route would cut straight through his county division, damaging a number of areas including Stoneleigh. He highlighted the following points from the meeting:

1. With an improving economy it was anticipated there would be 60% more travellers by 2024, and if HS2 did not go ahead this would result in increased road congestion and pressure on airports.
2. HS2 would bring 40,000 new jobs.
3. The current travelling time by train from London to Birmingham would be cut by 49 minutes and in the next stage the travelling time from London to Leeds would be cut by 70 minutes.
4. There would be 14 trains per hour and each train would be 400 metres long with a capacity to carry 1,000 passengers. Although the point had not been made at the meeting, it was understood that the HS2 would be for passengers only, but would free up the existing network for more freight.
5. Two million trees would be planted along the route.
6. The full economic and business case was given, with an emphasis on the ability to join up with the continent. It was however pointed out that the gauge of rail between HS2 and the continent would be different.
7. While this would ultimately be a political decision, Councillor Doody noted that meetings of representatives of all Councils along the line had held two meetings, one in Leamington Spa and the other in Aylesbury, with a third planned in High Wycombe next week to discuss a strategy in moving forward on this.
8. The extra runway in Birmingham had only briefly been mentioned at the meeting.
9. Although the financial benefits would go to Birmingham, these were expected to “cascade” down to the Shires and Government believed that the benefits would be balanced against the impacts.

Chris Nason, Group Manager – Transport for Warwickshire added the following:

- i. The consultation would run until 29 July. Roadshows would take place in towns and villages along the proposed route, the details of which were available through the Warwickshire website. There would also be strategic regional seminars, but dates for these had not yet been set.
- ii. Attendees at the meeting were given copies of the “High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain’s Future Consultation

Document”, “High Speed Rail: Investing in Britain’s Future Consultation Summary” and “The Y Network – London and the West Midlands”. These could all be accessed through the internet.

- iii. Out of the 100 people in attendance, it was estimated that approximately 95% were fully in support of HS2, including Birmingham City Council and the Chamber of Commerce.
- iv. Common themes running through the meeting were the stimulus and platform for economic growth and the potential for changing the north/south divide.
- v. David Frost, Director General of the Chamber of Commerce stated that HS2 needed to move forward, but not at the expense of the existing network. One of Warwickshire County Council concerns was also the need to ensure that the existing network is kept and maintained at a level acceptable to the County.
- vi. There had been an increasing growth in rail passengers in recent years and the existing network was expected to reach full capacity in the next decade.
- vii. The Business Case had been downgraded based on lower demand projections.
- viii. Members were recommended to read the reports prepared by Greengauge21 and The Tax Alliance, both of which could be linked to through the Warwickshire website.

In response to a query from the Chair, it was noted that HS2 Ltd had failed to deliver on their promise to include an appraisal of sustainability or an environmental impact report.

The Chair thanked Councillor Doody and Chris Nason for their updates and informed Members that the Committee would have to decide how to address their role in the consultation exercise.

Change to the order of the meeting

The Chair noted that he had agreed to take Item 5. (Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement Progress Report) before Item 4. (Changing Times - A New Chapter for Warwickshire Library and Information Services) due to officer availability.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Announcement in relation to the Atherstone fire deaths

Greta Needham updated Members of the Committee on the events that had unfolded the previous day (28 February 2011) following the notification by the CPS that Warwickshire County Council would face a charge of failing to ensure the health and safety at work of its employees, under section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the subsequent news that three Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service managers would

face charges of manslaughter by gross negligence for the deaths of four firefighters in a warehouse in Atherstone-on-Stour in 2007. She highlighted the following points for Members:

1. Graeme Smith, Warwickshire County Council's Spokesperson, had released a statement, and any queries from the media were to be referred to the Communications team.
2. There was currently no detail or information available regarding the charges and this was expected to be received over the next few weeks.
3. The announcements had followed a complex three-year investigation, initially by the police and then by the CPS from September 2010.
4. Every effort had been made to inform Members as soon as possible of events, both on 28 February and previously in relation to bail dates. It was noted that the County Council had not been privy to any information prior to the CPS statement being made.
5. The court date set for both charges was 1 April, but it was not yet clear whether the two charges would proceed in line with each other.
6. In terms of the charges against the County Council, a solicitor would be nominated to appear in court.
7. Greta Needham undertook to provide advice to all Members on the implications for the Council.

The Chair moved, Councillor Martin Shaw seconded and it was Resolved unanimously to move the meeting into a confidential session.

8. The charges against the County Council and the three firefighters were under the old law, and as stated in 7. above Greta Needham would provide a briefing note to all Members setting out exactly what the charges meant and any potential implications.
9. Each public sector organisation had due process, and the County Council would not have expected to be told about the charges made to other parties or individuals.
10. In response to a query about having a duty holder in place for the Fire Service, Greta Needham stated that this was not appropriate or necessary for this purpose, and this would be included in the briefing note.
11. Members stated that their thoughts were with the three officers and their families and the need to support them where possible.

The meeting moved back into public session.

Rugby Western Relief Road

The Chair announced that the reconvened special meeting to consider the Rugby Western Relief Road would take place on

15 March. He suggested that the meeting should be built around a structure of key themes and questions and asked Members to forward any questions they had to Michelle McHugh by the end of this week to allow groupings to be set under logical headings. The Chair confirmed that this would not form an exclusive list.

The Chair confirmed that, in response to the Members' wishes, arrangements had been made for a full day meeting with lunch provided.

2. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

3. Questions to the Portfolio Holder

It was agreed that in future, where possible, technical questions be forwarded to Portfolio Holders ahead of meetings to enable responses to be made at meetings.

Councillor Alan Cockburn

1. Councillor Richard Chattaway asked the Portfolio Holder for an update on the situation regarding the proposed diamond at New Town Road to ease traffic congestion into Bedworth. He added that this development was supported by himself and Councillor Barry Lobbett and had been identified as a possible development from Section 106 funding. It was suggested that this was an issue that should be raised at the Nuneaton and Bedworth Area Committee.
2. The Chair asked the Portfolio Holder for an update on the Warwickshire's position following Government's undertaking to give local authorities in England an extra £100m to repair potholes caused by last year's freezing conditions.

Councillor Alan Cockburn confirmed that Warwickshire would be applying for a share of this. He added that on a similar scheme last year money had been apportioned on a pro rata basis and Warwickshire had gratefully received approximately £1m.

Councillor Colin Hayfield

1. Councillor Martin Shaw stated that in respect to County Council buildings, that the budget line referring to Safe Water and Asbestos should be split into two separate budget lines for "Control of Legionella" and "Asbestos" as these were separate and operated on different timescales. He added that these budget headings needed to be reviewed to ensure the County

Council were getting value for money and that people were being properly looked after.

Councillor Colin Hayfield undertook to have a written response sent to Members

Councillor Richard Hobbs

1. Councillor Mike Gittus asked the Portfolio Holder what was being done as a county for employees of the Fire Service in light of the detrimental affect on the morale of staff the fire deaths and subsequent investigations and charges have had.

Councillor Richard Hobbs assured Members that the Chief Fire Officer and his senior officers were doing everything possible to support staff.

2. Councillor Martin Shaw thanked the Portfolio Holder and the County Fire Officer for their support in setting up the Junior Firefighters group in Atherstone, which was due to hold their first session on 2 March
3. Councillor Richard Chattaway asked the Portfolio Holder for a breakdown of how the Fire Service proposed to make the savings agreed within the annual budget.

Councillor Richard Hobbs undertook to provide this to all Members of the Committee. He added that it would make more sense for the Chief Fire Officer to brief groups of Members rather than individual Members, and the event at the Fire Service College on 4 March would provide such an opportunity.

The Chair thanked the Portfolio Holders for their responses.

4. Changing Times – A New Chapter for Warwickshire Library and Information Services

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Customers, Workforce and Governance explaining the proposed changes to the way library services are delivered throughout Warwickshire

Councillor Colin Hayfield introduced the report, adding that any options for making the savings of £2m would be considered and that the County Council would work with communities to find solutions.

David Carter stated that while it was inevitable that attention would focus on the savings, this exercise was also about modernising the library service, which needed to further embrace new technology. The library service budget had been reduced annually since 2006/07, with

reductions being managed within the staff and management for the service without any reduction in the network, and was also carrying a £1m deficit, which the County Council had agreed should be paid back over the next three years. He added that this was a consultation exercise and the Council was open-minded about working with anybody to find effective solutions to making savings.

During the discussion that ensued the following points arose:

1. The whole library network had been reviewed, with proposals for substantial reductions in opening hours for some libraries, and an increase in one library. There was still a need to talk to communities about possible alternatives and also to talk to partners about rationalising the provision of services, and where possible working together to find solutions. The proposals on the table had been driven by County Council cost requirements, with a view to meeting the needs of partners, but this dialogue was yet to be held.
2. There had been some difficulties experienced in extracting the libraries budget from Adult Services, but the Library Service had been an ongoing budget issue due to reduced income over a number of years.
3. Bulkington community had queried why their library was included on the list of Libraries not sustainable in its current form, whilst there were Libraries with poorer performance that were not. It was explained that the criteria was an aggregate of visits and issues and current or potential partnership arrangements. Communities could express an interest in providing a volunteer-run service; another option is to deliver library services from another building in the community. They would need to come forward with a robust business case to cover all the associated costs and would need to take account of ongoing costs. There was also the possibility of a small amount of capital funding towards relocation of services
4. In response to a question asking what extent the continued reduction in funding to libraries had subsequent reduction in the number of books had contributed to the decline in library usage, David Carter stated that it had been fed into the review of libraries, that books, in electronic or paper form, were the product of libraries, and the book fund should not be further depleted. He added that if there was any room to manoeuvre, that the book fund should be increased.
5. There were a number of factors influencing the County Council's change programme, and while libraries were trying to make savings, Property Services were in a similar position and there would be pressure to release buildings. These pressures from different services would place a greater responsibility on individual Councillors to take the lead in finding community solutions. It was noted however that across the public sector there needed to be a rationalisation of property instead of each building operating in isolation.

6. There was a countywide audit being carried out on the mobile library fleet and there were a number of areas that would have to be reviewed such as access to community needs and particular audiences. Kushal Birla added that the Library Service would be entering into a partnership with Solihull Metropolitan Council to deliver their mobile library service. A future aspiration was a larger mobile library vehicle which could potentially provide a wider range of services-
7. An electronic and paper pack were being prepared for the consultation process which would include templates for groups considering alternative solutions, setting out the questions they would need to answer and financial information they would need to gather to guarantee sustainability over the long-term. Officers would be available to support communities in preparing viable, sustainable solutions.
8. There was broad agreement that the review of library services had been taking place in different forms for many years, and that the decline in the service had been worsened by the placement of the service within the Adult Social Care Directorate. Concern was also raised that reduced hours would result in less people using the service.
9. The proposed list of closures and reduced hours had been the result of an assessment of all libraries against the same criteria, using an aggregate of visitor and loan numbers per hour and if there were existing or planned partnerships with an integrated way of delivering services (eg Stockingford and Wolston).
10. Where communities became involved in taking over the responsibilities of running libraries, they would still be part of the network and any changes or developments made to the rest of the network would have to be reflected.
11. Concern was raised, using Kenilworth as an example, that the Police had started a front desk arrangement with Warwickshire Direct on 28 February. The proposed reduction in hours would result in fewer hours of public access than the previous service to Kenilworth residents. Kushal Birla acknowledged that this was going to be an uncomfortable process, but that the financial problems had to be addressed. Without a reduction in opening hours, there would have been more than 16 closures proposed. Everything would be done to try to balance solutions through dialogue and to end up with a mix of solutions.
12. The consultation document identified how savings would be made, but any solutions put forward to increase opening hours, would be considered.
13. Councillor Ray Sweet noted that there were two potential library closures within his Division and that he was working with the community looking at putting four services into one building to maintain those services. The Portfolio Holder welcomed this approach and noted that this would be a genuine consultation and that the County was open to viable solutions.

14. All consultation responses would be collated and it was hoped that a report could be brought to the Cabinet meeting on 14 July 2011, with the possibility of a further report. Progress would be predicated on getting the library service on an even keel by October. Losses had been underwritten until then.
15. No decisions had been made regarding any library buildings that may become empty, but it was noted that if no productive public use could be found for empty buildings, these would be sold.
16. It was noted that the report did not include the consultation document programme, but was to receive the approval from Cabinet to begin the consultation. Once this had been done, discussions would be held with Members and communities. The Localities teams were advising on the best way to consult with communities.
17. Comparisons between services offered by different libraries was difficult as each library was different. For example, bigger libraries were able to offer a wider range of services, and some libraries buildings were not owned by the Council and therefore had rental costs. A baseline was needed for each library to ensure like for like comparisons and it was agreed that where a cost incurred covered the cost for a service amongst a number of libraries within an area, a breakdown would be useful. An example of this was Rugby Library providing the overdue service for the rest of the county.
18. The potential future service offer would include three categories of library:
 - Library Hubs – offering a wider range of books and services with longest opening hours and specialised services
 - Local Libraries – a more tailored approach, supported by Hubs
 - Community Libraries – potentially supported by Hubs.Running alongside these libraries would be Library Direct, a virtual service, offering e-book services. Ayub Khan added that the service would also have to meet the needs of the vulnerable and this could be achieved through developing more outreach services that were less building-based.
19. Members were broadly concerned that some areas were affected more adversely than others and it appeared that the north of the county was being denuded of libraries.
20. Members understood the rationale behind the need to make savings, but felt that the process had been too cost-driven, and that more focus should have been put on growing the number of services locally to demonstrate that libraries were still relevant and vital and focusing on the value that libraries provide to communities, particularly in deprived areas. David Carter added that part of the change to the offer would be to make the service more relevant to ensure communities used their libraries more effectively.

21. The possibility of raising revenue was discussed, but it was noted that it was not possible to charge customers for e-book as the contract with the provider prevented this. Additionally, the practicalities of accepting payments, particularly e-payments remained a corporate issue.
22. It was felt that the timing put in place to deliver the full level of savings effectively was not realistic to achieve individual solutions for each of the 34 libraries and to put these in place later this year. David Carter added that the savings were only expected from November 2011 onwards, any delay would worsen the situation.
23. In response to a query regarding any progress that had been made in relation to other service models, for example working with companies like Starbucks. David Carter added that there had been several meetings with the Museums, Libraries & Archive Association where a number of different models had been considered. This was a big picture issue, but experience in other local authorities had suggested a service with no social balance. Officers undertook to provide all available information to local groups and to look at the wider opportunities outside of libraries.

The Chair summed up the main themes as follows:

- There was strong support and appreciation of the value of the library service.
- Members recognised that the prime driver for progress were the cost pressures facing the service but recognised that there was a need to modernise the service.
- Strong assurances had been received about the consultation process and the engagement with Members, Community Fora and local communities.
- Local Members needed to play a pivotal role in their areas, supporting communities to explore options for their local library.
- Assurances of support by officers, including the provision of templates, advice and information, was given.
- Libraries could become part of “community hubs” of services.

The Committee noted their concern about the timetable and the unrealistic aspirations for finding 34 solutions parallel with each other with huge demands on officer time to get the consultation completed in July for implementation in October 2011.

5. Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement Progress Report

The Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director for Customers, Workforce and Governance presenting progress made against each of the priorities within the 2010-11 Warwickshire Community Safety Agreement.

Councillor Richard Hobbs introduced the report and highlighted the following:

- crime throughout Warwickshire had decreased over the last 6 years, largely due to the good partnership working between the County, District/Borough Councils and the Police.
- The exception to this was violent crime, which had increased and this target was not expected to be met this year. Councillor Hobbs added that this could be due to over.

During the ensuing discussion the following points were noted:

1. In response to a question about whether it would be more efficient to have one Community Safety Partnerships rather than four. Councillor Hobbs noted that there was an over-arching Warwickshire Safer Communities Partnership which met regularly, but that he felt having one Community Safety Partnership would be more efficient.
2. A working group of the countywide Partnership Board was developing proposals in relation to the governance structure around community safety, taking into account the changes to the policing landscape and the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioners and Police and Crime Panels.
3. There would be a significant decrease in funding from 2012.
4. In response to assurances being sought that the budget reduction in road safety would not reverse the good work that had been done to reduce the numbers of “killed or severely injured”. Councillor Hobbs noted that the County Council had an excellent relationship with the Police and even though Government were not funding any road safety, the County had put some funding into this area and would continue to work with the Police to reduce this target. The Chair noted that there would be a report on this item to the next Committee.
5. There was some concern noted that the cuts would have a significant and real impact on the progress that had been made in reducing crime. Councillor Hobbs responded that it was challenge to all partners to make this work and to continue to reduce crime and casualties. He added that these were difficult times but with the cuts came an opportunity to streamline services, while keeping the important frontline services strong and to invest in police and not buildings. As an example of this he used the reduction in numbers of safer neighbourhood teams, which was being balanced by a change to their roles with the requirement to do detailed investigative work being taken away.
6. In response to a request for a breakdown of the headline figures set out in the budget, Kate Nash clarified the following:
 - the main cut was from community safety and the funding given to Police for PCSOs, for the next year though this would be covered from an underspend that would be rolled over and there would be a full review of all PCSOs.

- Kit Leck had retired from the DAAT team and his replacement would be jointly funded by the Health service, enabling a saving of 50% and the ability to continue to deliver services at the same level.
 - It was not yet clear what the funding contribution from Supporting People would be in relation to reducing domestic abuse, but the County Council budget for this area had been protected at the same level as last year.
7. In response to concern raised at the lack of emphasis on the business community within the report, Councillor Hobbs responded that the business community was encouraged to attend Community Fora, where they had a valuable contribution to make to the priority setting of Police and the County Council services on a local level. At a more strategic level, it was policy not to categorise different sectors of society as all crime was treated in accordance with severity. Within the countywide crime unit however, there would be expertise to deal with business crime.
 8. The consultation on the Review of Domestic Support Services in Warwickshire would close on 26 April 2011, and proposals would then be developed. The Chair and Party Spokespersons would consider the best options for these proposals going to O&S.
 9. As part of the modernisation programme, front line police officers would all carry mobile data terminals, which would give them the ability to identify the location of other officers, call up information such as property histories, as well as the ability to make reports at the scene, reducing the amount of paperwork having to be produced, without impacting on the recording of incidents.
 10. In response to a query regarding the reason behind changing the target base at this point, Kate Nash pointed out that for the last two years the Police had agreed to target a reduction rather than a % reduction and the County Council had agreed to align our community safety targets with those of the Policer. The service would still be in a position to produce trend data.

The Chair thanked the Portfolio Holder and Kate Nash for their contributions.

The Committee endorsed the progress made against each of the priorities within the Community Safety Agreement.

6. Fire Sprinkler Systems

The Chair stated that in light of the events yesterday, he had agreed to this report being deferred to the meeting on 28 April 2011.

7. Development of Draft Measures and Targets in Support of the CBP 2011-13

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Community Safety & Localities, Head of Environment & Resources, Head of Finance, Fire & Rescue, Head of Children, Young People & Families and Head of Performance Management presenting the proposed measures and targets for inclusion relevant to the remit of the Communities Portfolio.

During the discussion that ensued the following points arose:

1. The Committee agreed that it would be difficult to give any meaningful comment on this document as there were a lot of gaps and no targets or baseline information.
2. Looking at targets without the context of historical trend data was meaningless.
3. Councillor Hobbs stated that the ambition within community safety was to reduce crime levels year on year, in partnership with the Police. He pointed out that the reduced budget and economic difficulties could result in an increase in crime, with less money to combat this.
4. The word “preventable” had been added to the target relating to the number of fire deaths. Councillor Hobbs added that there had been two fire deaths in Warwickshire in the past year, but these had not been considered preventable, as both were attributed to suicide.
5. A new outcome had been introduced for “Reduced number and severity of fires, and related injuries and deaths” per 100,000 population. This would be measured this year with an aim to then reduce year on year.
6. Andy McDarmaid tabled a revised page 7 to the report.
7. Members asked for clarification as to why the “Warwickshire is clean and green” outcome had only been set for 2011/12 and not the full three years. Andy McDarmaid undertook to e-mail a response to this to members of the Committee.
8. Andy McDarmaid agreed to clarify whether the aims for recycling reflected the more ambitious 60% target for recycling by 2015 that had been agreed by the Warwickshire Waste Partnership.
9. Members asked when Overview and Scrutiny would have a further opportunity to review these targets, should they be agreed by the Cabinet in April.
10. It was noted that Appendix A showed the reduced list of targets that had been agreed by the Corporate Performance Group and were intended to give a flavour of the direction of travel for the County Council. Business Unit Plans would sit beneath this and would include greater detail.
11. The Committee agreed to receive a report at the end of the first quarter (end of June 2011) setting out all measures and targets at Corporate Plan and Business Unit level.
12. All future updates should, where the information was not included, signpost to the appropriate business level plans.

13. Members acknowledged the challenges Directorates would face in continuing to achieve targets with reduced budgets.

The Committee agreed that their comments, as set out above, should be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for their meeting on 10 March, and requested a further report after the first quarter.

7. Committee Work Programme

The Committee agreed the Work Programme items with the following additions/clarifications:

- The special meeting on the Rugby Western Relief Road would take place on 15 March at the Town Hall in Rugby, with a 10:00 a.m. start.
- The report on Fire Sprinkler Systems would be considered at the meeting on 28 April.
- High Speed Railway (HS2) – The Chair confirmed, that following discussions with Councillor Alan Cockburn, Councillor Bob Stevens and Mandy Walker, it had been agreed that the working party already in existence would continue to work with officers to prepare the draft response to the Consultation, which would be considered by O&S at their meeting on 30 June. At this meeting, Members would have an opportunity to influence the consultation response.

Members agreed the proposed scope for the Task and Finish Group to consider Waste Disposal, including technologies. This would be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Board for consideration at their meeting on 10 March 2011.

It as agreed that a note should go to all Members alerting them to the Fire Sprinkler Systems Report to the meeting on 28 April 2011.

8. Any Other Items

There were no urgent items.

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Chair

The Committee rose at 2:55 p.m.