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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Chairmen's Scrutiny Forum

Date: Tuesday, 28th June, 2016

Place: Committee Room 7, Civic Centre, Southend-on-Sea

Present: Councillors B Ayling, Kenyon, C Nevin, K Robinson and P Wexham

In Attendance: J K Williams and F Abbott

Start/End Time: 6.00 - 6.55 pm

1 Appointment of Chairman.

Resolved:-

That Councillor Robinson be appointed Chairman of the Forum for the current Municipal Year.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Moyies.

3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

4 Role of Forum - extract from Constitution

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services briefly outlined the role and constitution of the Forum. He also referred to the letter sent to the new Scrutiny Chairmen recently, which had also been copied to the Vice Chairmen for their information.

5 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th September 2015

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 8th September, 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

6 Discussion on potential In depth scrutiny projects for 2016/17 for Place, People & Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committees

The Forum discussed the progress on the in depth scrutiny projects undertaken in 2015/16 and the Scrutiny Officer provided the following update:-

(a) 'Transition arrangements from children's to adult life' – the draft report was agreed at the People Scrutiny Committee meeting in April 2016 and agreed by Cabinet at its meeting held earlier in the day;

- (b) 'Control of personal debt' – the final report has been drafted and will be shared with project team Members shortly;
- (c) '20 mph speed limits in residential streets' – the final report is in the process of being drafted.

Councillor Wexham requested an update on the in depth scrutiny project pursued in 2014/15, 'Understanding erosion taking place on the foreshore'. This study was discontinued at the end of the 2014/15 Municipal Year, as the subject matter proved to be overly technical for a scrutiny review topic (particularly given the fact that a comprehensive study and report had been obtained by Professor Bradbury and was the subject of a report to Scrutiny Cttee in October 2013). No conclusions could be reached on the matter without the Council itself commissioning a major piece of work from expert consultants, involving a significant period of study and monitoring over a period of time. In any event the subject matter is being dealt with in another way as the Environment Agency is undertaking annual monitoring and additional sampling and this data will be passed to the Council's consultants and reported to the Place Scrutiny Committee later in the year.

The Forum then discussed the possible projects to be undertaken during 2016/17. Each Scrutiny Committee is due to agree its in depth project at the July meetings. It was agreed that the options be explored further by Scrutiny Chairmen.

7 Scrutiny Training

The Scrutiny Officer confirmed that the training session on scrutiny has been arranged for Thursday 7th July 2016 and noted the proposed programme. The training will now begin at earlier start time of 5.30 pm on that evening and is aimed at new Councillors in particular.

8 Any Items from Forum Members

New Councillors – Councillor Wexham said that in his role as Vice Chairman of the Place Scrutiny Committee, he would find it helpful to have a copy of the photos of the new Members on the Committee.

9 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Forum will be arranged for early January 2017 (date to be confirmed).