

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

TUESDAY, 31ST AUGUST 2010 AT 5.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors S. R. Colella (Chairman), D. L. Pardoe (Vice-Chairman), A. N. Blagg, Mrs. M. Bunker, R. J. Deeming, Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths, C. R. Scurrall, Mrs. C. J. Spencer, C. B. Taylor, C. J. Tidmarsh and L. J. Turner

Officers: Ms. J. Pickering, Mr. C. Santoriello-Smith, Mr. M. Carr and Ms. A. Scarce

14/10 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. R. L. Dent.

15/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

Councillor Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths declared a personal interest in the MUGA Inquiry, as she had previously appeared as a witness and withdrew from the Board for this item.

16/10 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 22nd July 2010 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

17/10 **INQUIRY INTO THE ALVECHURCH MULTI-USE GAMES AREA (MUGA)**

Members of the Board received a report of the Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services on the Inquiry into the Alvechurch Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and noted the progress so far. Members of the Board noted the written evidence and oral evidence so far received by the Inquiry and considered if any further evidence was required for consideration by Members of the Inquiry before they conclude their investigation. The Scrutiny Officer said that he would send pictures of the MUGA from the site visit carried out on the 20th July 2010. It was generally agreed that the Inquiry had considered a comprehensive amount of evidence from different perspectives and that it should now consider its conclusions and recommendations and report back to the Board on 5th October 2010.

Members considered the possible options for the Inquiry and the future of the MUGA. It was reported that the police were carrying out impromptu surveillance of the area and it was suggested that this should be more widely publicised. Options for the MUGA identified included:

- leaving the MUGA facilities in situ with appropriate re-landscaping of the physical environment to minimise opportunities for ASB and maximise surveillance of the area, subject to a 6 - 12 month review
- removal of the MUGA facilities.

Members of the Inquiry would now consider the full range of options available and the costs and feasibility implications and make recommendations to the Board.

18/10 **VERBAL UPDATE ON WORCESTERSHIRE HUB JOINT SCRUTINY TASK GROUP (COUNCILLOR C. B. TAYLOR)**

Members of the Board received a progress report from Councillor C. B. Taylor on the Worcestershire Hub Joint Scrutiny Task Group at Worcestershire County Council. Cllr Taylor was one of the representatives appointed by the Board to the Worcestershire Hub Joint Scrutiny Task Group.

Councillor Taylor expressed disappointment with the administration of the Task Group. It was recalled that on the on 15th June 2010 the Board had resolved that the Chairman of the Worcestershire Hub Joint Scrutiny Task Group be invited, by Councillor Taylor, to a future meeting of the Board. The Scrutiny Officer was requested to follow this up with a formal written invitation.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Officer be requested to write to the Chairman of the Worcestershire Hub Joint Scrutiny Task Group to invite him to a future meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Board.

The meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.

Chairman