

## WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Economic and Social Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
held in Committee Room I, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney,  
at 6.30pm on Thursday 15 September 2016

### PRESENT

Councillors: : P J Handley (Chairman), Mrs E H N Fenton (Vice-Chairman), M A Barrett, Mrs L C Carter, J C Cooper, Mrs M J Crossland, Mrs J M Doughty, H B Eaglestone, E J Fenton, J Haine and Mrs L E C Little

Also in attendance: Mr A S Coles

#### 25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

Apologies for absence were received from Mr P D Kelland and Mr B J Woodruff and the Head of Paid Service reported receipt of the following resignation and temporary appointment:-

Mr E J Fenton for Mr T N Owen

#### 26. MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers relating to matters to be considered at the meeting.

#### 28. PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

No submissions were received from the public in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.

#### 29. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATE REPORT

The Committee received and noted the Chairman's update report. The Chairman advised that it was his intention to hear from those representatives of the emergency services present prior to dealing with the remaining items of business.

In relation to the Local Plan Monitoring Report (paragraph 3.5 of the report) Mr Cooper enquired what reply had been received from the Member of Parliament in respect of concerns expressed over delays in concluding Section 106 agreements.

#### 30. SOUTH CENTRAL AMBULANCE SERVICE TRUST

At the request of the Committee, Mr Philip Astle, Chief Operating Officer, Mr John Black, Medical Director, Richard McDonald, Head of Operations – Oxfordshire, and Ross Cornett, Clinical Operations Manager – Oxfordshire, of the South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust attended the meeting.

Mr McDonald had provided a report giving an overview of the operation of the Service within the District, copies of which had been circulated to Members of the Committee by email earlier in the day, a copy of which is attached to the original copy of these minutes as Appendix A.

As the report was both extensive and complex, Members expressed concern that they had not had sufficient time to assimilate the information provided in sufficient detail to enable meaningful discussion and it was proposed by Mrs Crossland and seconded by Mrs Doughty that consideration of the matter be deferred and representatives of the Trust invited to attend a subsequent meeting.

At the suggestion of the Strategic Director, the Committee agreed to receive a brief presentation.

Mr McDonald explained that it had not been possible to produce the report earlier due to other pressing commitments, the Joint County Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the A & E Delivery Board meeting that same day. He acknowledged that response times within West Oxfordshire did not meet national standards but went on to explain that, notwithstanding the fact that the service was contracted to meet those standards on a wider geographical basis, not at a local level, the Trust had achieved sustained levels of improvement.

Mr McDonald emphasised that the Service endeavoured to do the best for patients and advised that the outcomes achieved compared favourably with the best performing areas in the United Kingdom, particularly in relation to serious occurrences such as return of spontaneous circulation following cardiac arrest.

The report detailed the challenges faced by the Trust such as the recruitment and retention of paramedics, and the measures being taken to address them. Mr McDonald advised that the Trust was developing new clinical roles and seeking to recruit trained personnel from overseas.

Mr McDonald advised that performance in West Oxfordshire had seen a sustained improvement, particularly in the Witney area, following the introduction of a rapid response vehicle. The provision of telephone advice through both the 999 and 111 services had gone some way towards reducing demand on the service by promoting self-care where appropriate as had an increase in the number of patients treated on-scene and referred to alternative services rather than transferred to A & E where performance was amongst the best in the UK.

In conclusion, whilst acknowledging the difficulties faced in West Oxfordshire, Mr McDonald assured the Committee that the Trust was seeking to improve performance and referred Members to the information contained within his report.

Mr Black advised that the Care Quality Commission had recently undertaken a comprehensive review of the Service and expressed the hope that Members would be able to take some assurance from the conclusion of this, which was to be published the following week. He indicated that the Trust was innovative and forward thinking and sought to work with a variety of partner organisations including the Fire and Rescue Service, Police and primary care providers to deliver a high quality service, responsive to patients' needs.

Since representatives of the Trust had last met with the Committee in 2013 various service initiatives had been taken forward. Increasing use was being made of the 111 service and patient satisfaction levels were high. The addition of a clinical presence in clinical co-

ordination (control) centres provided decision making support for ambulance crews, aiding them in directing patients to the most appropriate facility.

Mr Cornett advised that the introduction of locally based first responders meant that a qualified person equipped with a defibrillator was able to arrive at an incident and provide life support within two or three minutes and recruitment of first responders was increasing.

Mr Handley thanked the Trust representatives for their attendance and, whilst he considered that Members would not have had the opportunity to consider the report in sufficient depth to formulate questions, indicated that he would wish to receive a breakdown of calls detailing which service was first to arrive on the scene. He indicated that he had not been aware of any local advertisements seeking to fill vacancies within the service and expressed his concern that the service was failing to meet national standards within West Oxfordshire.

Mr Barrett thanked Mr McDonald for his report and, whilst recognising the progress that had been made, expressed concern that national targets were still not being met in the District. He noted that the service came close to meeting national targets on a District wide basis but enquired whether it would be possible to provide a more detailed geographical breakdown identifying those areas in which targets were not being met.

In response, Mr Black advised that, whilst the Trust recognised the importance of providing a responsive service, performance indicators based solely on time represented a poor measure of the quality of care delivered. The Trust operated to a wide suite of indicators and, whilst it would always wish to respond to non-life threatening incidents as soon as possible, it was developing a more clinically efficient model aimed at ensuring that patients received the correct care at the most appropriate facility. It was important to consider both the time and quality of care and the Trust was seeking to develop a more clinically sophisticated assessment system.

Demands on the service had increased and the Trust was doing all in its power to deliver care as and when required under challenging circumstances.

Mr Astle advised that there was a national move to revise service targets as it was recognised that, whilst time was a factor, it was more important to respond in the correct way rather than simply to respond quickly but inappropriately; such as by creating unwarranted admissions to A & E. Accordingly, it was considered that targets ought to be primarily focussed on clinical outcomes. The Trust employed specialist paramedics who were able to see and treat patients on-scene and some 60% of incidents were dealt with in this way. It was far better for both patients and the health service to avoid unnecessary admissions to A & E.

With regard to recruitment, Mr Astle advised that the Trust did advertise regularly on local radio and through Facebook and other social media.

Mrs Carter expressed her appreciation of the service provided in the Chipping Norton area and advised that she had seen the benefits of partnership working first hand. She acknowledged the challenges facing the Trust and enquired whether the Council could exercise influence upon the commissioning bodies to provide additional funding.

In response, Mr Astle reiterated that the Trust was commissioned to provide services on a multi-county basis and to address targets across a wide geographical area. Whilst the level of funding provided was not necessarily problematic, being sufficient to enable the Trust to meet national targets across this wider area, it was more difficult to do so in those areas where population was sparse, primarily due to geographical rather than financial constraints. Demand in West Oxfordshire had changed dramatically with a 30% increase in serious cases whilst funding had been reduced.

Mr Fenton questioned the increase in demand and, in response, Mr Astle advised that calls had increased by 10%, 8% and 11% respectively over the previous three months. Added to this overall increase, the percentage of green calls had reduced whilst more serious red calls had increased. This had an asymmetric impact as, in addition to responding to red calls more urgently, there was a need to respond with more resources. Despite this, performance in the District continued to improve.

Mr Black advised that the increased demand resulted from multiple factors including the District's demographics and ageing population. There were also seasonal factors to be taken into account but demands on the service continued to increase year on year. Mr Astle advised that the current level of demand was higher than that experienced in December of 2015.

Mr Handley suggested that, having had the opportunity to consider the information provided in greater detail, Members should address any specific questions arising through Democratic Services (email [paul.cracknell@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:paul.cracknell@westoxon.gov.uk) )

Mrs Carter emphasised that whilst response times were important to those living in rural areas, the ability to provide the additional resources necessary rested with the service commissioners, not the Trust. Whilst it endeavoured to provide the best possible service to local residents, the Trust was under-resourced and it was incumbent upon Members to bring pressure to bear to address this.

Mr Haine concurred and indicated that, despite its best efforts to improve performance, faced with increasing demands, the Trust would not be able to meet national targets in West Oxfordshire without additional financial resources.

Mr Barrett indicated that there was merit in concentrating on patient outcomes rather than response times.

**RESOLVED:** That further consideration of the matter be deferred and representatives of the Trust invited to attend a subsequent meeting.

### 31. LOCAL POLICE AREA COMMANDER – ANNUAL UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from Superintendent Kath Lowe, Local Police Area Commander, Cherwell & West Oxfordshire, regarding policing priorities.

Superintendent Lowe circulated details of crime figures for West Oxfordshire during the year to date with comparison figures for the same period during the previous year. A copy of the information provided is attached to the original copy of these minutes as Appendix B. She indicated that Thames Valley was a successful force, crime levels were low and both public confidence and victim satisfaction high.

The landscape against which the force operated had changed with new crimes such as cybercrime and revised priorities, on-going financial uncertainty and changes in society in terms of how people communicate and purchase goods and services.

It was important to provide a modern service to meet the needs of all sections of the community and the force sought to build on its success through change and innovation to provide an efficient and effective core service, working together with its partners and the public to prevent and identify crime and to bring offenders to justice.

Thames Valley Police endeavoured to make the best use of available resources and to focus on the requirements of the most vulnerable in pursuit of its core purpose, protecting communities.

Superintendent Lowe made reference to the Chief Constable's commitment, details of which can be found on the force website at

<http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/aboutus/aboutus-stplan/ourcommitment.htm>

She advised that only around 20% of time was spent dealing with crime, the remainder being directed towards other issues such as mental health, missing children and other instances of 'fear for welfare'.

Mr Handley thanked Superintendent Lowe for her presentation and enquired whether the increased level of burglaries suggested that organised thieves were operating in the District. In response, Superintendent Lowe advised that, whilst there had been a slight percentage increase, the actual number of offences remained very small and were generally committed by local offenders.

Mr Fenton noted that it appeared difficult to achieve a successful outcome in relation to vehicle crime and questioned whether there was anything the Council could do to help. Superintendent Lowe explained that difficulty in collecting evidence made vehicle crime, criminal damage and rural crime difficult to solve. Whilst CCTV was effective in car parks and urban areas it was doubtful that the associated level of expense would be justified in less populated areas given the low incidence of offences.

Mrs Crossland congratulated Superintendent Lowe on the performance to date and expressed her appreciation of the action of local officers. She noted that overall levels of crime were low but enquired whether there were any particular crime 'hot spots'. Superintendent Lowe confirmed that there was some local variation and advised that more detailed geographic data was available to assist officers in their investigations.

Mr Coles expressed his appreciation for the work of local officers and the sexual assault referral centre team. He recalled that Superintendent Payne had previously advised the Committee that, on occasion, the police presence in West Oxfordshire could be as low as six officers and enquired if this was still the case. He also questioned the long term security of Witney Police Station following the closure of the custody suite.

In response, Superintendent Lowe advised that six officers was considered to represent the minimum level of cover for the District. Following the amalgamation of the West Oxfordshire and Cherwell police areas a total figure of 14 officers had been established as the minimum level of cover throughout, although the split with six assigned to West Oxfordshire was generally maintained. Statistics showed that this level was sufficient to provide adequate coverage; although it had to be borne in mind that this related to local officers alone and other resources including Neighbourhood Officers, Traffic Police, dog units and Armed Response Vehicles were also available to and active within the District. Superintendent Lowe also confirmed that there were no plans to close Witney Police Station.

In response to a question from Mrs Little, Superintendent Lowe advised that, whilst not specifically recorded as such, there was very little hate or race crime within West Oxfordshire.

In response to questions from Mr Cooper she advised that no research had been undertaken to explain the slight increase in theft from the person as this offence was not prioritised. Superintendent Lowe also advised that instances of cybercrime were not recorded locally but centrally in the City of London as offences could originate anywhere.

Mrs Carter enquired whether the sexual assault referral centre in Oxford had closed requiring victims to travel to Slough or Milton Keynes. In response, Superintendent Lowe explained that Oxford had not had a designated sexual assault referral centre but the rape suite in the City had closed some five or six years earlier. Whilst victims had to travel to Slough and Bletchley, these centres offered a first class service that could not be provided locally.

In response to questions from Mr Handley and Mrs Carter, Superintendent Lowe advised that thefts from the person generally related to theft from handbags, that burglary – non dwelling related to commercial premises and that domestic violence accounted for the majority of violence against the person.

Mrs Carter also welcomed the joint initiative which saw mental health professionals working directly with the Police and Superintendent Lowe advised that the professional advice provided by the mental triage team had helped to reduce the number of arrests in these circumstances.

In conclusion, Superintendent Lowe asked Members to help spread crime reduction advice. In particular, she cautioned against leaving valuables in unattended vehicles and failing to lock properties. She also drew attention to the cybercrime campaign, the importance of taking steps to protect personal information and ensuring that security software was up to date and the need for parents to supervise their children's access to the internet.

The Chairman thanked Superintendent Lowe for her contribution to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the information provided be noted.

## 32. OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

At the request of the Committee, Simon Furlong, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, attended the meeting and gave a brief overview of the operation of the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service within the District.

DCO Furlong explained that the annual performance report had yet to be released and undertook to make this available to Members once published. He advised that David Etheridge, the Chief Fire Officer, was unable to be present having a prior commitment, and offered his apologies.

DCO Furlong then went on to provide information on the operation of the service within West Oxfordshire. He explained that the service had undertaken a significant journey having seen a massive reduction in the number of fires. There had been a fall of 50% over the previous 10 years since the inception of the 365 alive initiative which had sought to achieve savings of £100,000Million, issue 84,000 safety messages and reduce deaths by 365. The project had achieved these targets by 2014 and, having set stretch targets of 20%, had since met these.

The service had now developed a new vision, moving from response to prevention, in particular by promoting home fire safety assessments. Since the late 1990's, the percentage of homes fitted with fire alarms had increased from 15% to 92%. Changes in building regulations and furniture safety standards had led to a significant reduction in the number of fires and the service was now moving to supporting the wider wellbeing of the community.

Sadly, there were still deaths as a result of fires; 300 nationally and two in Oxfordshire during the previous year. However, the service could add value to the wellbeing of the community and had set new targets. It sought to save some 6,000 people over the next six years through its co-responding role in which it would be able to save more lives by responding to medical emergencies that it could ever do in its traditional role. It wished to educate 85,000 children to lead safer and healthier lives and was intending to focus on looked after children. The service also aimed to help vulnerable children and adults to lead more secure and independent lives supported by safety and well-being visits.

Efforts were to be made to reduce the number of road deaths and to promote safety at work through support and advice to businesses. It was intended to issue 1.6 million safety messages using social media as this had been found to be successful in engaging with young people.

DCO Furlong went on to provide statistical information on the service's work. Some 6,000 individuals had received support during the previous year whilst some 563 activities such as youth work and road safety initiatives had been carried out. Safety and wellbeing visits had been undertaken by the fire safety teams with particular emphasis being placed upon instances of persons sleeping above restaurant premises and 239 business visits had taken place.

There had been operational responses to 101 primary fires of which 55 were at residential properties, 68 road traffic collisions and 170 co-responding calls at which the service had been able to support colleagues in the ambulance service by utilising available resources to provide acute care at the scene.

Response targets had been in place for the last six years requiring 80% of calls to be reached within 11 minutes and 95% within 14 minutes. These had been achieved for the first time last year with targets being met in 85% and 95.2% of calls respectively. This improvement in performance had been due in part to the introduction of automatic vehicle locating which allowed the position of all assets to be monitored in real time.

DCO Furlong explained that, although there were no full time stations within West Oxfordshire, response times had improved with the respective targets being met in 79.82% and 93.2% against 73% and 91.7% the previous year. Efforts were in train to improve this performance further with the introduction of on-call staff and locality plans taking account of local demographics and other key local issues.

Recruitment continued to present difficulties and the service was further challenged by the expectation of an impending loss of long serving staff. DCO Furlong advised that Members could help address the shortfall as word of mouth tended to be the most effective recruitment tool.

In response to a question from Mrs Crossland, DCO Furlong explained that the retained stations did not operate on a fixed number of personnel but was based on a number of persons being available for a variety of periods between 36 and 120 hours each week. At present, crewed appliances were available 83% of the time and, as it required four officers

to take an appliance out, it could be difficult to respond on occasions. With regard to safety advice to older persons, DCO Furlong indicated that he would like to see an expansion of the fire alarm fitting service to cover the provision of other aids and extend the help available to offer a more extensive community service. At present, the Fire Service made referrals through social services but DCO Furlong advised that he would like to hold an independent budget to enable work to be carried out directly.

Mrs Little suggested that there could be merit in working with other charities, voluntary and community organisations. DCO Furlong concurred and confirmed that consideration was being given to a fundamental change in the role of the Fire Service. It was important to avoid duplication of effort and there was already a degree of joint working; Police Community Support Officers were trained to carry out safety assessments and Carterton Town Council had offered to make the Town Hall available for recruitment purposes. There was increased pressure upon volunteers to expand their roles and it was helpful if organisations could work together.

Mr Coles paid tribute to the work of the service and enquired whether the reintroduction of key worker status would aid recruitment. In response, DCO Furlong advised that many full time officers worked on their days off at retained stations but the price of housing remained a restricting factor in attracting full time personnel. The ageing population of the District was a particular challenge as there was a limited recruitment pool. In addition, as there was little employment within the District, younger people often travelled to work elsewhere and hence were unavailable during the day. Whilst margins were decreasing for businesses, employers were generally supportive of retained fire-fighters, recognising the benefits that their training and qualities of leadership could bring to an organisation. There was a degree of difficulty in retaining trained personnel, the average length of service being nine years. Loss of trained personnel tended to occur in cycles and remained a constant challenge.

Mrs Carter enquired whether there had been any further suggestions of a merger of Police and Fire Services. In response, DCO Furlong advised that the current position was unclear. Whilst the previous Home Secretary had suggested the merger of these services in combined authorities where there was a business case to do so, he was of the opinion that it was more difficult to establish a business case in counties in which the police area was not co-terminus. The introduction of a Thames Valley service could result in a loss of co-ordination but would also provide a stronger voice in Government. The future shape of the service would become clear over time.

Mr Cooper questioned whether the Council could do more to aid recruitment as an employer and **questioned the reasons enquired why** it had been decided to provide a full-time resource at Bampton.

In response, DCO Furlong explained that the intention had been to boost resilience in Oxfordshire. Bicester, Banbury and Carterton had been identified as areas of potential concern and, whilst there was an intention to provide a centre in Carterton in future, the availability of a full-time resource freed up in Oxford offered the opportunity to address the immediate issue by making the best use of available resources to ensure resilience in West Oxfordshire.

The Strategic Director advised that at least one of the Council's employees was a retained fire-fighter and indicated that the Authority could promote the opportunities available.

The Chairman thanked DCO Furlong for his contribution to the meeting.



**RESOLVED:** That the information provided be noted.

(Mr A S Coles left the meeting at this juncture)

33. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/2017

The Committee received and considered the report of the Strategic Director which gave an update on progress in relation to its Work Programme for 2016/2017.

33.1 RAF Brize Norton

The Strategic Director advised that, whilst the last scheduled meeting of the RAF Brize Norton Liaison Group had been deferred for operational reasons, meetings had been held with representatives of the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to discuss innovative ways in which capital projects could be brought forward. Whilst financial priority was directed towards operational assets, the DIO recognised the need to take care of service personnel and to bring forward capital projects. Consideration was being given to ways in which the Council could assist financially and a further meeting was to take place in October as the DIO was keen to see the commencement of the redevelopment of the Reema north site.

Mr Cooper indicated that the provision of financial assistance by the Council warranted further consideration and having been proposed by Mr Cooper and seconded by Mrs Crossland it was:-

**RESOLVED:** that the Committee expresses its support for the initiative taken to date and requests the Cabinet to give further consideration to the provision of financial assistance to facilitate residential development at Brize Norton.

33.2 Quality of Care/Review of Community Hospitals

The Strategic Director advised that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Leisure and Health had written to the Chief Executive ~~of the Chief Executive~~ of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust regarding the withdrawal of maternity services from the Horton Hospital in Banbury. In view of the concerns expressed and the impending review of community hospital provision in the County, she suggested that there could be merit in inviting the Chief Executive of the Trust to attend a future meeting.

In addition, following the apparent decision to close the Deer Park Surgery in Witney, Mrs Baker had also written to the Chief Executive of the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group expressing the Council's concern.

The Strategic Director suggested that the Committee might wish to consider holding a special meeting to consider these health related issues, inviting representatives from the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Clinical Commissioning Board, Deer Park Surgery and other interested groups and organisations to attend.

The Strategic Director agreed to circulate copies of the letters sent by Mrs Baker to all Members of the Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee indicated that it was important for the Council to address these issues without delay.

Mrs Carter expressed her concern at suggestions made by staff that staffing levels in the maternity units had reached dangerously low levels and that calls on the staff at Chipping Norton were having a knock-on effect on that unit's ability to provide a safe and adequate service. Mrs Carter suggested that the Council's response needed to be robust and to reflect these concerns.

Mr Cooper suggested that the Council should also seek support from the Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire given the potential impact upon residents in that constituency.

Mr Alan Beames of the Witney Town Council expressed his concern at proposals to close the Deer Park Surgery, indicating that such a decision was illogical given the current and projected levels of residential development in that quadrant of the town.

Mr Eaglestone advised that a meeting was to be held by the Deer Park Patients Forum on 25 September and Mrs Brenda Churchill, a representative of that group advised that it proposed to fight the proposals. She indicated that Deer Park was the only surgery in the town with the ability to expand, with capacity for two more doctors. Closure of this facility would leave residents in the area cut off from primary care, particularly as there was no longer a bus route serving that part of the town.

Mrs Doughty advised that it had been indicated that the Trust was not in a position to undertake consultation on the withdrawal of maternity services at the Horton Hospital until the New Year. The County Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had expressed its concern and was to consider the matter further on 30 September.

### 33.3 Integration of Public Transport

Following approval of the Committee's request that the Cabinet provides financial assistance to meet the initial set-up costs of establishing a co-operative to commission local public transport services across the District it was **AGREED** that Ms E P R Leffman be requested to provide an update on the project to the next scheduled meeting.

### 33.4 Blenheim World Heritage Site Management Plan

At the suggestion of the Strategic Director it was **AGREED** that a Working Party be established to consider the Blenheim World Heritage Site Management Plan. Mr Cooper and Mrs Fenton indicated that they would be happy to serve on the group.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (a) That arrangements be made for a special meeting of the Committee to be held to consider the health related issues referred to above at the earliest possible opportunity.
- (b) That, subject to the amendments detailed above, progress with regard to the Committee's Work Programme for 2016/2017 be noted.

(Mrs L E C Little left the meeting at this juncture)

### 34. CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Head of Paid Service giving an opportunity for the Committee to comment on the Work Programme published on 23 August 2016 was received.

It was noted that the reports on the approval of proposals for the future funding of homeless pathway supported housing and local authority owned company models were to be considered by the Cabinet at its next meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Cabinet Work Programme published on 23 August 2016 be noted.

35. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – QUARTER I 2016/2017

The Committee received and considered the report of the Head of Leisure and Communities providing information on the Council's performance at the end of the first quarter of year 2016/2017.

The Strategic Director advised that the sole red indicator related to checking of plans in building control and had arisen following the retirement of a senior member of staff. The post had now been filled and performance was expected to improve.

Mr Cooper drew attention to performance in relation to planning appeals (PL4) and suggested that the Council should address the criticism levelled against it by Dr Stuart Brooks at the last full Council meeting. In response, the Strategic Director advised that each appeal was considered individually and resources allocated as appropriate.

In relation to the economic impact of tourism activity on the District, Mr Cooper indicated that the recent 'Countryfile Live' event at Blenheim Palace had been a great success although traffic management had left a lot to be desired. Members were advised that a debriefing meeting had been held at which the organisers of the event had recognised these shortcomings and had undertaken to address them on future occasions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

36. LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT WORKING PARTY

The notes of the meeting of the Leisure Management Contract Working Party held on 7 September 2016, copies of which were circulated at the meeting, were received and noted.

37. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Mrs Carter reminded Members of the concerns expressed by the Committee in November 2014 with regard to potential cuts in funding by OCC for domestic violence services and enquired whether or not these had taken place. Officers undertook to investigate and report back further on the current position.

The meeting closed at 9:15pm

Chairman