

REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 1 April 2015

**1. Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan Proposals 2015-16 and Future Years:
Feedback**

- 1.1 Feedback received from both Members and officers following The Committee's scrutiny of the Integrated Plan Proposals (IPP) 2015-16 and future years was considered by Members; the consensus was that the overall process should remain the same with a few refinements to improve next year's IPP scrutiny, ensuring that the focus of questioning is on the IPP rather than that of service areas. Members also requested that officers explore alternative ways of organising evidence gathering Groups and IP Themes and questions (*also see paragraph 6 below*).
- 1.2 All Executive Member responses to the Committee's suggestions to Cabinet resulting from the scrutiny of the IPP will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 9 June 2015.
- 1.3 Responses to the information requested by Members during the IPP scrutiny process have been received and circulated to Members of the Committee.
- 1.4 The following scrutines, proposed by the IPP scrutiny, for inclusion in the Committee's future work programme have been agreed:
- (i) To evaluate the effectiveness of the new Council website (18 months after implementation)
 - (ii) To examine the County Council's approach to gully-cleaning and to identify ways of making it more flexible. In addition, reviewing whether the Council has procedures in place to prevent and deal with flooding and flood protection, supported by adequate resources
 - (iii) To scrutinise Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service future cost-savings and the impact on service delivery as a result of any re-organisation and changes to terms and conditions of employment.
- 1.5 A lunchtime seminar on the voluntary sector strategy will also be organised and all Members of the Council will be invited to attend.

2. Scrutiny Recommendations: Update

- 2.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the

'Highways Liaison Meeting Arrangements since October 2012' Topic Group; the 'Crime and Disorder 2014 'Hate Crime'' Topic Group; the 'Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults' Topic Group and the 'Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan Proposals (IPP) 2015-16'.

- 2.2 The Executive Member responses to the scrutiny recommendations made by the 'Autistic Spectrum Disorder' Topic Group; 'Highways Liaison Meeting Arrangements since October 2012' Topic Group and the 'Safeguarding Adults Board' Topic Group were also received. The 'Monitoring of Recommendations' Topic Group has been requested to consider action taken on the recommendations arising from these scrutinies in due course.

3 Scrutiny Work Programme

- 3.1 The Committee has considered its future work programme, noting those scrutinies recently concluded and those scheduled for the forthcoming period.
- 3.2 Members have agreed that a scrutiny of the 'Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board' will be undertaken on an annual basis.
- 3.3 The Committee also agreed to add a further three scrutinies to its work programme, as set out above at paragraph 1.4.
- 3.4 The draft scoping document for the Schools Capital Repairs & Maintenance scrutiny, to be conducted as a whole Committee scrutiny (*also see paragraph 7 below*), was also noted.

The Committee met on 9 June 2015 10.00 a.m.

4. Scrutiny Recommendations: Update

- 4.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the 'Child Sexual Exploitation' (CSE) Topic Group and the 'Public Health Integration' Topic Group.
- 4.2 The Executive Member responses to the 'Hate Crime' Topic Group and the Executive Member responses to the scrutiny recommendations to the scrutiny of the 'IPP 2015/16' have been received. Action taken to implement all scrutiny recommendations will be reviewed by the 'Monitoring of Recommendations' Topic Group in due course.
- 4.3 A progress report was provided by the Chairman of the 'Monitoring of Recommendations' Topic Group on work undertaken by the Group on scrutiny recommendations at its recent meeting with a further update due to be provided to the Committee at its meeting on 2 September 2015
- 4.4 Information on the whereabouts of alcohol free zones, requested by Members as part of their scrutiny of the IPP 2015/16, was also received.

5. Scrutiny Work Programme 2015 – 2017

- 5.1 The Committee considered a request for a scrutiny in relation to Public Health Integration “to examine the effectiveness of Public Health services in the community”. The Committee agreed this request and, with this addition, approved its work programme 2015 - 2017.

6. An Alternative Approach to the IPP Scrutiny

- 6.1 The Committee was asked to consider a suggested alternative approach for the Scrutiny of the IPP 2016/17 and Future Years. It was agreed that there will be 4 backbench Member groups, each covering all the themes of questioning within an Executive Member area, and that each Group should be assigned two Executive Member areas; as an example, it would mean in the morning one Group would have two hours with Children’s Services and, in the afternoon, two hours with Public Health. A report confirming these arrangements, together with proposed themes and questions, will be considered by the Committee at its meeting in the autumn.

The Committee met on 9 June 2015 10.30 a.m.

7. Scrutiny of the School Repairs and Capital Projects

- 7.1 A whole Committee scrutiny of ‘School Repairs and Capital Projects’ was carried out. The objective was to understand the scale and scope of capital maintenance in Hertfordshire schools. The Committee heard representations from internal and external witnesses and made a number of recommendations. The full report, including the Committee’s recommendations, can be found here [OSC - School Repairs & Capital Projects Scrutiny](#)

TERRY HONE
Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
July 2015