

REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 16 July 2015

1. Scrutiny of the Traffic Regulation Orders

- 1.1 A whole Committee scrutiny of 'Traffic Regulation Orders' was carried out. The objective was to understand the effectiveness of the Traffic Regulation Orders in Hertfordshire. 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 - Traffic Regulation Orders Scrutiny](#). The scrutiny did not, however, answer all the questions that members had over possible ways to reduce costs and only partially on speeding up the process. The Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group will be asking for additional information, and in the light of this, the Committee may ask for a further scrutiny.

The Committee met on 10 August 2015

2. To discuss and scrutinise the effect on the provision of 'Home Start' services caused by the change in policy made by the Administration

- 2.1 A whole Committee scrutiny following a call-in by opposition Members was held to discuss and scrutinise the effect on the provision of 'Home Start' services caused by the change in policy made by the Administration. 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 [Special Meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee](#)
- 2.2 The Committee agreed that the Children's Centre scrutiny, currently on the Committee's work programme for Spring 2017, will be brought forward to Autumn / Winter 2016 and the scope expanded to include 'the effect on the provision of the Home Visiting Service caused by the change in policy'.

The Committee met on 2 September 2015

3. Scrutiny Recommendations: Update

- 3.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the 'Hertfordshire Welfare Assistance'; the 'School Repairs and Capital Projects'; and the 'Traffic Regulations Order' scrutinies.
- 3.2 The Executive Member responses to the scrutiny recommendations made by the

'Child Sexual Exploitation' Topic Group and the 'Public Health Integration' Topic Group were also received. The 'Monitoring of Recommendations' Topic Group has been requested to consider the action taken on the recommendations arising from these scrutinies in due course.

- 3.3 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 last meeting on 5 June 2015.

4 Scrutiny Work Programme

- 4.1 The Committee has considered its future work programme 2015-2017, noting the scrutinies recently concluded and the ones scheduled for the forthcoming period.
- 4.2 Members requested that a briefing paper to be circulated listing all the contracts that are currently with SERCO. This will assist the Committee on deciding which contracts to scrutinise under the 'Effectiveness of SERCO Contracts' and those that will be included in the scoping document for this topic group.
- 4.3 Draft scoping documents for the Ringway Topic Group, Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Topic Group, the Property Asset Management and Management of Rural Estates Topic Group, and the Hertfordshire Care Standard Topic Group, were also noted.

5 Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan Proposals 2016/17 and Future Years

- 5.1 The Committee has agreed the format for its scrutiny of the Integrated Plan (IP) proposals 2016/17 and future years. The format for the scrutiny will follow much the same format as previous IPP scrutinies, with some refinements to reflect the feedback received from Members and Officers after the IPP scrutiny conducted earlier this year. The primary difference will be that Members (including non-committee Members) will be allocated to one of four Member Groups, with each Member Group focussing on two portfolio areas, one in the morning and one in the afternoon; the Council's service areas will be divided into 8 groups, 4 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon, based on the portfolios of Executive Members and supported by Executive Members and a Chief/Senior Finance Officer. The Committee has also agreed that the Chairman for each Member Group can be different for the morning and afternoon sessions, giving the opportunity for 2 Liberal Democrat Members; 2 Labour Members and 4 Conservative Members to chair the scrutiny of the 8 portfolio areas. This approach will enable Member Groups to have more time to focus on a service/budget area and will allow all aspects of a portfolio to be covered by a Member Group rather than each Member Group covering one theme of questioning as has been the practice in previous years. All Members of the Council are invited and encouraged to participate in this scrutiny.

TERRY HONE
Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
November 2015