

REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 10 November 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

1. Scrutiny Recommendations: Update

- 1.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the 'Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board'.
- 1.2 Members noted that Executive Member responses to the 'Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Topic Group' (HSAB) and 'The Children in Care Council Placement Stability Topic Group' (CHICC) had been received, and that both Executive Member responses would be considered by the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group. A young care leaver involved in the CHICC scrutiny would attend the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group meeting alongside officers to give their perspective on the report's findings and on the Executive Member's response to them.
- 1.3 The Chairman suggested that the title of the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group should be reviewed to reflect the importance of its role. Members agreed with that suggestion and have asked officers to liaise with the Chief Legal Officer with a view to renaming the Topic Group to include the word 'committee' in its title. The outcome of those discussions will be reported back to the Committee in due course.

2. Scrutiny Work Programme

- 2.1 Members heard that all Group Leaders had agreed for the work programme to be 'rolled over' to the next term of office in May 2017. Although the Committee raised concerns in relation to the work programme items not necessarily reflecting issues of concern to newly elected Members, it understood that this process was the usual practice. The Committee agreed to support this proposal; the first meeting of the Committee after the local government elections in May 2017 will consider the work programme to ensure it reflects the new Committee's focus. It was noted that some items such as the IP (Budget) Scrutiny, and the Crime and Disorder, HSAB and HSCB Topic Groups would remain on the work programme as it was a legal requirement for them to be scrutinised annually.
- 2.2 The Chairman enquired whether the Committee would be interested in having officer presentations at future meetings to help inform Members, especially those newly elected to the Council, about the business of the Authority, to provide an insight into areas the Committee might wish to scrutinise in the future and to help inform Members about pressures facing directorates. The Committee has agreed this in principle; discussions between the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

will take place to determine how this should be taken forward with the outcome reported back to a future meeting of the Committee.

2.3 The Committee also noted that, following discussions between the two scrutiny committee Chairmen, the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) scrutiny would now be commissioned by the Health Scrutiny Committee, although participation from Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would still be welcomed.

2.4 The Committee further noted that the seminars on the work programme had been postponed until after the local government elections in May 2017 unless anything urgent was raised.

2.5 The draft scoping document for the Library Service Review Topic Group was received.

3. Integrated Plan (IP): Director of Resources proposed briefing for the OSC meeting on 20 December 2016

3.1 The Committee received a report outlining the proposed brief for the Director of Resources presentation to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 20 December 2016.

3.2 The Committee agreed to ask that the Director of Resources cover the following in his presentation:

- Clarify the expected Hertfordshire County Council Settlement from central government
- The impact of any changes to the funding formula and its implementation
- Identify any other funding streams pertinent to determining the IPP
- Relevance of the budget gap in guidance to departments
- What trends are affecting the development of the IP 2017/18 and beyond.

The Committee met on 20 December 2016 at 10.00 a.m.

4. Integrated Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20 - Overview of Resources, Pressures and Key Issues

4.1 The Executive Member for Resources and Performance and the Director of Resources provided the Committee with an overview of the Integrated Plan (IP) proposals for 2017/18 – 2019/20 prior to the Committee's scrutiny of the proposals early in the New Year.

4.2 Members were provided with a timetable for the Plan and received information regarding strategic direction plans, revenue budget and funding, pressures, the Council's capital programme and reserves.

4.3 Key points raised in the presentation to Members and the full report to Committee can be viewed here [Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 20 December](#)

[2016](#).

5. Scrutiny Recommendations: Update

- 5.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the 'Flood Risk Management Topic Group', the 'Herts Waste Partnership Topic Group (HWP)' and the 'Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board (HSCB) Topic Group'.
- 5.2 It was noted that the HWP Topic Group report had been provided to Hertfordshire district and borough Chief Executives, Leaders and the relevant Executive Members. In order to pursue further collaboration between the County Council and District and Borough Councils, the Committee requested that officers also seek to have the Topic Group's report included on the agenda of the next Hertfordshire Leaders' meeting.
- 5.3 The Chairman of the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) scrutiny advised the Committee that information requested by the Topic Group was still outstanding. The information related to the costs incurred outside of the TRO team; the Topic Group had requested that a breakdown of the project costs involved in 6 HLB (highways locality budget) scenarios be provided in order that they could be assessed for acceptability and to establish where reductions in costs could be made. The Committee requested that highways officers be reminded that this information was still required. *[NB The information has now been received, but Members are dissatisfied with the response].*
- 5.4 Members noted that no Executive Member responses had been received since the last meeting of the Committee.
- 5.5 The Committee was advised that the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group had met on 25 November 2016 and had signed off as completed all outstanding topic group recommendations. Members were further advised that one further item was due to be considered by the Topic Group in February 2017; the Topic Group has, however, decided to defer consideration of this item of business until its first meeting following the County Council elections in May 2017.

6. Scrutiny Work Programme 2016 – 2017

- 6.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2016 – 2017, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, noting those scrutinies recently concluded and those scheduled for the forthcoming period.
- 6.2 The Committee amended its work programme as follows:-
 - (i) The March 2017 meeting of the Committee should include a report providing feedback on the Integrated Plan scrutiny conducted in January/February 2017;
 - (ii) The main focus of the Committee's meeting in June 2017 should be Committee's 2017 – 2018 work programme;
 - (iii) The annual scrutiny of the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

- should be included in the work programme for 2017; and
- (iv) A scrutiny of 'Highways' should be added to the work programme; the focus of which should be determined by the new Committee.

- 6.3 The draft scoping document for the Children's Centre Topic Group was received.
- 6.4 Members noted that the work programme would be presented to the first meeting of the Committee in the new County Council (following the local government elections in May 2017) for consideration and approval and/or amendment, including the priority and timing of future scrutinies.

The Committee met on 26 January 2017 and 2 February 2017

7. Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20

- 7.1 The Committee's scrutiny of the Integrated Plan 2017/18 - 2019/20 was conducted over two days; commencing on 26 January 2017, when it gathered its evidence and concluding on 2 February 2017, when findings, conclusions and suggestions for Cabinet's consideration were agreed. Cabinet will be asked to consider the Committee's suggestions at its meeting on 20 February 2017, prior to it recommending the Integrated Plan 2017/18 - 2019/20 to County Council for approval on 21 February 2017.
- 7.2 A copy of the Committee's report to Cabinet, including its recommendations, can be viewed at <https://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/508/Committee/8/Default.aspx>.

TERRY HONE
Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
February 2017