

**REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

*The Committee met on 28 March 2017 at 10.00 a.m.*

**1. Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20: Feedback**

- 1.1 The Committee received a report providing details of feedback from both Members and officers following the scrutiny of the Integrated Plan (IP) 2017/18 – 2019/20.
- 1.2 Members noted the feedback as detailed in the report and the consensus was that the overall process should remain the same with a few refinements to improve next year's IP scrutiny. These are detailed below:
  1. To revise room allocation for groups with larger numbers of officers attending;
  2. To rethink the reconvened meeting e.g. allowing an extra day to finalise the report and for discussions to take place on cross-cutting themes;
  3. That written guidance notes be distributed to Members earlier; and
  4. To remind the Chairmen of the IP groups and Graduate Trainees to leave 5-10 minutes at the end of the group gathering sessions to finalise wording for feedback to the Committee.

Members also agreed that Executive Member Portfolios with multiple strands would remain as this year when being scrutinised.

- 1.3 The Assistant Director, Resources, gave feedback and agreed that the process had worked well and that it would be helpful to know how officers could help make the IP packs slimmer. It was suggested that 'tablets' would make the process more interactive and would reduce the paper content used. It was also suggested that members might find it helpful to have a briefing to guide them through the IP pack before the IP scrutiny commenced.
- 1.4 Members noted that responses to the information requests made by the Committee in relation to the 'High Impact Gangs' had been circulated.
- 1.5 The Committee agreed the following scrutinies, proposed as a result of the IP scrutiny, be included in the Committee's future work programme:
  - (i) A review of the provision of day services
  - (ii) Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) annual scrutiny – to

- (iii) consider self-esteem amongst teenage girls as its 2017 focus
  - (iii) A review of whether the nine Delivering Special Provision Locally Areas are performing consistently across the county
  - (iv) A review of the effectiveness of the Herts Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP)
  - (v) A review the Intelligent Transport Solutions (ITS) project
  - (vi) A review of the planning approach to identify and seek damages from individual drivers and organisations causing a hazard or damage to verges and footways in accordance with the Highways Act 1980.
- 1.6 The Committee also requested that the Health Scrutiny Committee consider including in its work programme a review of the Integrated Budget for Mental Health Services, and a scrutiny of consistency of social prescribing offered by GPs across the County.
- 2. Scrutiny Recommendations: Update**
  - 2.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the 'Public Health Reduced Budget' Topic Group; the Annual 'Crime & Disorder' Topic Group on Scamming; the 'Children Looked After' Topic Group and the 'Integrated Plan 2017/18 – 2019/20' Scrutiny.
  - 2.2 Members noted that the Executive Member responses to the 'Herts Waste Partnership' Topic Group, 'Public Health Reduced Budget' Topic Group and the Annual 'Crime & Disorder' Topic Group on Scamming had been received; Members further noted that all scrutiny recommendations and Executive Member responses would be considered by the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group in due course.\*

*\*This work will now be carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee; see paragraph 7 below.*
- 3. Scrutiny work programme 2017 – 2018**
  - 3.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2017 – 2018 noting those scrutinies recently concluded and those scheduled for the forthcoming period.
  - 3.2 The Committee agreed that a number of scrutinies, proposed as a result of the IP scrutiny, be added to its work programme (see paragraph 1.5 above).
  - 3.3 The Committee also received an Addendum to this item of business advising that 3 motions relating to highways matters put to full Council on 21 March 2017 had been referred to the Committee; Members agreed that these be considered for inclusion in the work programme at the first meeting of the Committee in the new County Council.
  - 3.4 The draft scoping document for the Community Protection Topic Group scrutiny was received; it was agreed that the objective of this scrutiny would be changed to 'To scrutinise the partnership work of Community Protection Directorate (CPD) with Public Health, Health & Community Services (HCS) and others in developing a safe and well programme'.

- 3.5 Members agreed that the focus of the 2017 Crime and Disorder scrutiny will be domestic abuse, as listed on the work programme.
- 3.6 The Committee noted that a scrutiny member induction pack was being prepared and would be available for the new Committee in June 2017.

The Committee met on 21 June 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

#### **4. Induction to Overview & Scrutiny**

- 4.1 The Committee received a comprehensive induction to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee process setting out the role of scrutiny and how it was undertaken by the County Council, the expectations of Members as part of the Committee and the importance of their input in ensuring that the scrutiny process continued to be effective.

#### **5. Scrutiny Recommendations: Update**

- 5.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the 'Disability Support for Bus Users' Topic Group and the 'Inspiring Libraries Strategy' Topic Group, and the Executive Member responses to the 'Children Looked After', 'Disability Support for Bus Users' and the 'Inspiring Libraries Strategy' scrutiny recommendations.
- 5.2 Members noted that all scrutiny recommendations and Executive Member responses would be considered by the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group in due course.\*

*\*This work will now be carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee; see paragraph 7 below.*

#### **6. Joint Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 6.1 The Committee noted the scrutinies on the work programme agreed by its predecessor. Members further noted that, in order to assist the new Committee in setting its work programme, the Head of Scrutiny had been tasked by the outgoing Committee to meet with chief officers to seek views on what scrutinies remained relevant. The Committee considered these views in agreeing its work programme and in ensuring that the matters for scrutiny reflected the new Committee's focus.
- 6.2 The Committee also considered the motions referred to it by the County Council on 21 March 2017. The Committee agreed the following actions for the Motions:
1. *"This Council requests the Highways Cabinet Panel to review the current Highways contracts to ensure they are fit for purpose and to identify changes to improve the performance of the said contractors."* (Motion 16A) – to be added to the work programme for scrutiny Autumn 2018. Reports on this matter are to be discussed at the Highways Panel in June and November 2017. These are to be forwarded to members of the

Committee.

2. *“This Council requests the Highways Cabinet Panel to review the outcome of the changes to the fault reporting system and responses brought in last year that has elongated the time for repairing faults and to consider what effect these changes have had on service delivery, complaints and performance.”* (Motion 16B) – this was not added to the work programme. Members would receive the Highways Cabinet Panel report.
  3. *“Whilst noting that the Enhanced Maintenance Programme brought for the current financial year was to also undertake a one-off clearance of gullies Council notes that many are still outstanding and thus requests that the Highways Cabinet panel undertakes a review of this process that has meant an 18 month cycle of gully cleaning and also to review if this is cost effective or adequate. As part of the review the Highways Cabinet Panel should review the inability of reported faults being shown on the fault reporting system.”* (Motion 16C) - This was not added to the work programme. Members requested a written information bulletin.
- 6.3 The Committee has now agreed its work programme for 2017/18 (full details of the changes and updates to the work programme are set out in the Minutes here <http://cmis.hertfordshire.gov.uk/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/592/Committee/6/Default.aspx>).
- 6.4 The Committee has also requested information bulletins for the following:
- The Hertfordshire Care Quality Standard – expectations on quality
  - Information and advice provision for social care self-funders in Hertfordshire, including in hospitals. This to be widened to an overview of adult social services including assessments, eligibility criteria, charging, services and reviews.
- 6.5 The Committee agreed to the following lunchtime seminars:
- An overview of the two safeguarding boards to clarify members responsibilities and the role and purpose of the annual scrutiny – already programmed for 7 September 2017
  - Outlining the work of the Local Enterprise Partnership - Late autumn 2017
  - Social services’ interface with the NHS and options for integration to include input from health bodies
- 6.6 The Committee was invited to consider whether it wished to invite chief officers to attend future committees to give an overview of items on the work programme; Members have agreed that the Chief Fire Officer attend a future OSC to outline the cost and benefits of Rescue Service staff being trained in medical trauma care when responding to ambulance call-outs and the Day-Crewing Plus initiative.

## **7. Proposed Impact of Scrutiny (OSC) Sub-Committee**

- 7.1 The Committee considered a report setting out a proposal to establish an OSC Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee to replace the current Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group. The Committee also considered proposals setting out how it is intended that the Sub-Committee will undertake its work.
- 7.2 Members have agreed the establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee; the Sub Committee will be made up of five Members and will be politically proportionate (3.1.1). Members noted that it will run consecutively with the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee and that both sub-committees will have the same membership. The first meeting of the Sub-Committee is likely to take place in the autumn.

## **8. Annual Scrutiny Report**

- 8.1 The Committee received the Annual Scrutiny Report detailing the work of scrutiny throughout 2016/17.

**David Andrews**  
**Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**  
**July 2017**