

REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Committee met on 15 November 2017 at 10.00 a.m.

1. Integrated Plan (IP) 2018/19 – 2021/22: Director of Resources Brief

- 1.1 Members received a report providing them with the outline of the proposed brief for the Director of Resources' presentation to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) on Tuesday, 19 December 2017.
- 1.2 It was noted the Director of Resources would provide an overview of the current budget position and an outline the parameters he had advised portfolios to take into account when preparing the IP responses. The OSC Chairman and Vice Chairmen asked that the Director also cover the following:
 - Clarifying the issues effecting the IP proposals put forward by portfolios
 - The anticipated Settlement from central government
 - Impact of any changes to the funding formula and its implementation
 - Identify any other funding streams pertinent to determining the IP
 - Relevance of the budget gap in guidance to departments
 - The trends are affecting the development of the IP 2018/19 – 2021/22.

2. Scrutiny recommendations update

- 2.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the Nascot Lawn Topic Group, the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Topic Group and the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Topic Group.
- 2.2 Members noted that the Organisation Responses to the Nascot Lawn Topic Group had been received for information only.
- 2.3 Members further noted that the Impact of Scrutiny (OSC) Sub-Committee (ISSC) would have its first meeting on 28 November 2017 and that the ISSC Chairman would provide an update at the Committee's December meeting.

3. Scrutiny work programme 2017 – 2018

- 3.1 The Committee noted the work being carried out on a new database for the scrutiny work programme and that Members would receive an overview at a future meeting once some minor issues had been resolved.
- 3.2 The Committee 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.](#))

3.3 The Head of Scrutiny provided an overview of the work being carried out by the Health Scrutiny Committee and reminded Members that any Member could attend any Scrutiny Committee or Topic Group meeting.

4. Social care aspect of Healthwatch Hertfordshire

4.1 The Committee received a presentation on the social care remit of Healthwatch Hertfordshire (HWH). The Committee heard that the vision set out by Healthwatch England was to work 'towards a society where peoples' health and social care needs were heard, understood and met'. The vision informed the work of Healthwatch Hertfordshire and meant local people helped shape health and social care delivery, influenced the service they received personally and held services to account. The presentation covered:-

- The role of Healthwatch Hertfordshire
- Recent activities around social care
- Priorities and focus
- Legislative requirements
- Legislative powers
- Healthwatch Hertfordshire's future activities

4.2 Healthwatch Hertfordshire advised the Committee that it wished to establish a similar relationship with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as it has with Health Scrutiny Committee.

4.3 Members suggested that an activity to promote the work of HWH should be carried out. The Committee agreed to promote HWH to colleagues and residents. Further information about HWH and the services it provides can be found here <https://www.healthwatchhertfordshire.co.uk/>.

A special meeting of the Committee met on 29 November 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

5. To Consider the Call-In Of Cabinet Decision (Forward Plan Ref: A055/17) 'To consider the future of the Cuffley Camp Outdoor Centre'

5.1 The Committee received a report that invited Members to consider the decision reached by Cabinet on 13 November 2017 in respect of the Cuffley Camp Outdoor Centre.

5.2 The Committee received background information in relation to the proposals for the future of the Cuffley Camp Outdoor Centre and noted it was considered by the Children's Services Cabinet Panel on 2 November 2017 and by the Resources, Property and the Economy Cabinet Panel on 9 November 2017. Members also noted that a petition, entitled 'Stop the closure of Cuffley Camp Outdoor Centre', which contained 8839 signatures, had been received and presented to the Resources, Property & the Economy Cabinet Panel. The reports to the Cabinet Panels can be viewed here [Report to Children's Services Cabinet](#)

[Panel](#) and [Report to Resources, Property & The Economy Cabinet Panel](#); the petition can be viewed [here](#).

- 5.3 It was noted that on the 15 November 2017, in accordance with Standing Order SC8 of Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution, the Chief Legal Officer received a Call In Notification from five Members of the Liberal Democrat Group that cited the reasons for the Call In as follows:-
1. Failure to by Cabinet to adequately consider the year by year usage and financial deficits data to enable full and proper consideration of the impact.
 2. Failure by Cabinet to consider how the current running deficit — which was £31,467 in 2016-17 could be addressed in future years to ensure a break even position.
 3. Failure to provide to the Cabinet the full details of the availability on a month by month basis of alternative outdoor centres and their availability to meet the expected needs of Cutfley Camp users which in 2016/17 numbered 8203.
 4. Failure to provide any explanations as to why the lease and the covenanted investment amounts totalling just short of £300,000 had not been made to GHIL (Gascoyne Holdings Ltd) despite this being known to certain members and officers by early 2016.
 5. Failure to consider the effect on the 5 permanent staff members on the termination of the lease and the effect on their "required to reside" status meaning that premises occupied by them would have to be vacated on termination.
 6. Cabinet incorrectly placed an emphasis on the statement in paragraph 4.15 that wrongly stated a "noticeable decline in bookings" when the decline is just 11% (thus not noticeable) for the period 2011 to 2017 or that the percentage of individuals attending in the first six months had increased in 2016/17 compared to both 2014 to 2016 years and 2011 to 2012 years.
 7. That Cabinet did not give any due consideration to the statement "more likely to have a negative differential impact for children given that 97% of users from schools. 82% of users are from primary schools." And that Cabinet gave un-due weight to the financial issues and did not adequately consider the differential impact.
 8. Failure of Cabinet to consider an option to maintain the lease until the freeholders of the site had secured an alternative long-term outdoor use for young people
- 5.4 The Committee considered each of these points. As a result of its deliberations, the Committee agreed that it had no objection to the Called-In Cabinet decision being implemented. The full minutes can be viewed [here](#).

6. The Committee met on 19 December 2017 at 10.00a.m.

6.1 Integrated Plan Proposals 2018/19 – 2021/22: Overview of Resources, Pressures and Key Issues

6.2 The Committee received an overview of the integrated plan proposals for 2018/19 – 2021/22, prior to its scrutiny of them in January/February 2018.

6.3 Members noted the timetable for the Integrated Plan's approval; information was also received regarding service direction plans, revenue budget and funding, budgetary pressures, and inflation.

7. Finance seminar

7.1 The Committee received a presentation in relation to the Integrated Plan (IP) process which outlined how to navigate the IP pack.

7.2 Members were taken through parts A to G of the IP pack and provided with a summary of the information in each of the sections in order to assist them in carrying out an effective scrutiny of the IP.

8. Scrutiny recommendations update

8.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the Community Protection Safe and Well Topic Group.

8.2 Members noted that the Executive Member response to the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Topic Group had been received. The 'Impact of Scrutiny (OSC) Sub Committee' has been requested to consider the action taken on the recommendations arising from this scrutiny in due course.

8.3 Members noted the Impact of Scrutiny (OSC) Sub-Committee (ISSC) met on 28 November 2017 and the Minutes of the meeting were received by the Committee for information. The ISSC 'recommendation tracker', summarising the status of Topic Group recommendations considered by ISSC in 2017/18, was also noted.

9. Scrutiny work programme

9.1 The Committee has now agreed its work programme for 2018/19 (full details of the changes and updates to the work programme are set out in the [Minutes here.](#))

The Committee met on 24 January 2018 and 1 February 2018

10. Scrutiny of the Integrated Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22

10.1 The Committee's scrutiny of the Integrated Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 was conducted over two days; commencing on 24 January 2018, when it gathered its

evidence, and concluding on 1 February 2018, when findings, conclusions and recommendations to Cabinet were agreed. Cabinet will be asked to consider the Committee's recommendations at its meeting on 19 February 2019, prior to it recommending the Integrated Plan 2018/19 - 2021/22 to County Council for approval on 20 February 2018.

- 10.2 A copy of the Committee's report to Cabinet, including its recommendations, can be viewed at [OSC Report 1\(B\)](#).

David Andrews
Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
February 2018