

Minutes



To: All Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Michelle Diprose
Ext: 25566

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 15 JUNE 2016

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

R H Beeching (Substitute for D E Lloyd), J Billing, C Clapper, H K Crofton, T W Hone (Chairman), T Hutchings, A Joynes (Vice-Chairman), G McAndrew, A S B Walkington (Substitute for M Cowan), M A Watkin (Substitute for D T F Scudder)

*PARENT GOVERNOR / CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES (VOTING)

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**denotes members appointed for education scrutiny matters only*

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, 20 April 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

ACTION

1. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS: UPDATE

[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Scrutiny Officer (01992 555300)]

- 1.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the 'Herts Care Quality Standards Topic Group'.
- 1.2 Members noted that the Executive Member responses to the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Topic Group and the Executive Member responses to the scrutiny recommendations to the IPP Scrutiny 2016/17 – 2019/20 had been received.
- 1.3 Members of the committee were concerned at the lack of progress with regard to the review of the council's property assets requested as part of the IPP Scrutiny 2016/17, attached as Item 1 Appendix 2(b) to the report. Members voiced their frustration that the review would take so long to be carried out, especially as the Council was actively seeking ways to save money. The Committee asked that its concern be conveyed back to the relevant department.
- 1.4 The Committee noted the IPP scrutiny Executive Responses to the Suggestions to Cabinet or Panels and expressed disappointment with the overall quality of the responses provided. The Committee agreed that future IPP Suggestions would concentrate on how the budget proposals presented would achieve the Integrated Plan intentions. Members discussed making the IPP Café Suggestions more specific including focussing on when and how any savings be achieved. It was felt that the process for monitoring the Executive Member Responses to Suggestions needed to be more effective.
- 1.5 Members noted the information request as a request from the IPP Scrutiny 2016/17 – 2018/20 for information on the Health and Community Services structure chart and requested it be circulated to all County Councillors. Members also asked if all structure charts could be made available to view on Members Information System (MIS).
- 1.6 The Minutes of the April 2016 meeting of the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group was received by the Committee. The 'scrutiny overview' database, summarising the status of Topic Group recommendations considered by the Topic Group in 2015/16, was also noted.

Natalie Rotherham to action

Natalie Rotherham / Michelle Diprose to action

Natalie Rotherham to action

Conclusion

- 1.7 1. The Committee noted the Herts Care Quality Standards Topic Group' recommendations set out in Appendix 1(a), to the

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report.

2. The Committee noted the Executive Member responses to scrutiny recommendations set out in Appendices 2(a) and 2 (b) to the report, and agreed that the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group be requested to consider action taken on these in due course.
3. In relation to concerns raised in 1.3 above, the Committee asked for its concern to be conveyed back to the relevant department.
4. The Committee noted the minutes of the April meeting of the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group as attached, as Appendix 3 to the report.
5. The Committee noted the Scrutiny Overview database, as attached as Appendix 4 to the report.

Natalie
Rotherham /
Nicola Cahill
to note

Natalie
Rotherham
to action

2 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL (CHICC) UPDATE

[Officer contract Charles Weir, Scrutiny Officer (01438 843630)]

- 2.1 The Committee received verbal report on the outcome of the Children in Care Council (CHICC) Topic Group, which was carried out by Children Looked After (CLA).
- 2.2 Members noted that focus of the scrutiny was for the Stability of Placement for Children in Care Council who had been placed in care.
- 2.3 Members were informed that the scrutiny type session focussed on three specific questions by way of CHICC asking county council officers:
 - What work had been done in the last year to create more placements and what was the outcome of this?
 - What interaction was there between Hertfordshire County Council and young people and what were the outcomes of these discussions?
 - What plans were there to increase the number and stability of placements?
- 2.4 Members were pleased to note that the scrutiny had input from a number of young people and that a full report with recommendations would be circulated in due course.
- 2.5 The Committee agreed that CHICC recommendations should be presented to a future meeting of the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group to make the scrutiny more formal.

Charles Weir
to action

Conclusion

2.6 The Committee:

- a) noted the update; and
- b) agreed that the recommendations from the CHICC scrutiny be presented to a future meeting of the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group

Charles Weir
/Natalie
Rotherham /
Nicola Cahill
to action

3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2016 – 2017

[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Scrutiny Officer (01992 588485)]

3.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2016 – 2017 noting those scrutinies recently concluded and those scheduled for the forthcoming period.

3.2 The Committee agreed to amend the work programme as follows:

- a) 'Public transport issues specifically the support to disabled users' scrutiny be retitled 'Disability support for bus users';
- b) Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board 2016 theme would be on 'neglect';
- c) Crime & Disorder 2016 focus would be scamming;
- d) 'To examine the effectiveness of Public Health Services in the community' scrutiny be retitled 'To examine how Public Health are continuing to be effective in light of funding cuts to the department's budget';
- e) Children's Centres to be moved back to summer 2017;
- f) 'To scrutinise Hertfordshire Fire & 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' scrutiny be retitled 'To undertake a scrutiny of Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service to include a review of what savings have been made to date and what further savings can be achieved';
- g) 'To review the Community Protection directorate's preventative work to other services (e.g. Public Health) by reviewing the costs, effects and benefits to other services and the predicted wider costs savings' scrutiny be retitled 'To scrutinise Fire & Rescue preventive work with Public Health, establishing the effects and benefits'
- h) Member Information System (MiS) and Corporate Parenting lunchtime seminars to be postponed until after the 2017 elections.

Natalie
Rotherham
Charles
Weir/
Michelle
Diprose
to note /
action all

3.3 The Committee agreed to remove 'The County Council's changing demographics' from its work programme as it would be addressed via the Health Scrutiny and Overview and Scrutiny Committees budget

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Cafés

3.4 The Committee agreed to add the following scrutinies and briefing note to the work programme:

1. Children Looked After - Topic Group
2. The Care Act - Topic Group
3. Rural Estates - Briefing note

3.5 The draft scoping documents for the Disability Support on Public Transport Topic Group; Flooding Management and Strategy Topic Group; Library Services Strategy Topic Group and Herts Waste Partnership Topic Group were also received. The Committee amended the scope for Disability Support in Public Transport to cover buses only.

Conclusions

- 3.6
1. The work programme considered at this meeting reflected the decisions made by the Committee at its last meeting.
 2. The Committee agreed its work programme, amended as follows:-
 - a) 'Public transport issues specifically the support to disabled users' scrutiny be retitled 'Disability support for bus users',;
 - b) Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board 2016 theme would be on 'neglect';
 - c) Crime & Disorder 2016 focus would be scamming;
 - d) 'To examine the effectiveness of Public Health Services in the community' scrutiny be retitled 'To examine how Public Health are continuing to be effective in light of funding cuts to the department's budget';
 - e) Children's Centres to be moved back to summer 2017;
 - f) 'To scrutinise Hertfordshire Fire & 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' scrutiny be retitled 'To undertake a scrutiny of Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service to include a review of what savings have been made to date and what further savings can be achieved';
 - g) 'To review the Community Protection directorate's preventative work to other services (e.g. Public Health) by reviewing the costs, effects and benefits to other services and the predicted wider costs

Natalie
Rotherham
Charles
Weir/
Michelle
Diprose
to note /
action all

**CHAIRMAN'S
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savings' scrutiny be retitled 'To scrutinise Fire & Rescue preventive work with Public Health, establishing the effects and benefits'

- h) Members Information System (MiS) and Corporate lunchtime seminars to be postponed until after the 2017 elections.

- 3. The Committee agreed to remove 'The County Council's changing demographics' from its work programme as this would be addressed via the Health Scrutiny and Overview and Scrutiny Committees budget cafés
- 4. The Committee agreed to add the following scrutinies and briefing note to the work programme:
 - 1. Children Looked After Topic Group
 - 2. The Care Act Topic Group
 - 3. Rural Estates Briefing note
- 5. The Committee noted the draft scoping document for the Disability Support on Public Transport Topic Group, as amended in 3.4 above; Flooding Management and Strategy Topic Group; Library Services Strategy Topic Group and Herts Waste Partnership Topic Group as attached as Appendices 2(a), 2(b), 2(c) and 2 (d) to the report.

4 CONFIRMING THE APPROACH TO THE IPP CAFÉ 2017/18

[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Scrutiny Officer (01992 555300)]

- 4.1 The Committee were provided with an opportunity to consider an alternative approach to the IPP Scrutiny 2017/18 and future years.
- 4.2 The Committee received an overview of the current process of the Scrutiny of the IPP and the suggested alternative approach to the IPP Scrutiny 2017/18 as set out in 2.1 of the report. The Committee heard of the disadvantages and advantages of changing the format to IPP Café as proposed in point b) and c) in 2.1 of the report.
- 4.3 It was noted that a number of Members were in favour for the IPP Scrutiny Café to be carried out over two days, four portfolios on each day. However, following discussion in relation to chairman and graduate trainee feedback; lack of attendance at the briefing session on the day of the scrutiny café and the amount of time required to draft the IPP Scrutiny report, the Committee agreed to continue with the current approach and look at changes that could be made to enhance the scrutiny café's in future years taking into account comments made to conduct the scrutiny over two days.
- 4.4 The Committee agreed to the proposed change to amalgamate the

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separate IP and IP scrutiny papers into a combined set of IPP papers including IPP questions.

- 4.5 Members were asked to consider the focus for the OSC meeting in December as detailed in 2.2.2 of the report. It was noted that Chris Hayward, Executive Member for Resources, would be invited to the December meeting of the OSC to inform the Committee of the expectations of the IPP Café scrutiny.

Conclusion

- 4.6 The Committee:
- 1 noted the suggested alternative of extending the Café over two days and agreed to continue the current approach to the IPP Café 2017/18 – 2019/20.
 - 2 agreed to amalgamate the separate IP and IP scrutiny paper into a combined set of IPP papers including IPP questions
 - 3 agreed the focus for the December OSC meeting as detailed in 2.2.2 of the report

5. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

- 5.1 There was no other business.

REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

A summary of all items will be reported to the County Council at its meeting on 19 July 2016.

Michelle
Diprose

**KATHRYN PETTITT,
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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