

# 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

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## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE THURSDAY, 26 JANUARY 2017 AND THURSDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2017**

### **ATTENDANCE**

#### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

J Billing, R H Beeching (Substitute for D E Lloyd), M Cowan (Vice-Chairman), H K Crofton, T W Hone (Chairman), T Hutchings, P V Mason (Substitute for C Clapper), R H Smith (Substitute for G McAndrew)

#### **OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

D Andrews, D A Ashley, J R Barfoot, N Bell, F Button, L A Chesterman, D S Drury, T L F Douris, D Hart, C M Hayward, T C Heritage, R J Henry, D J Hewitt, F R G Hill, T Hunter, S L C Johnston, P F J Knell, P V Mason, S Quilty, I M Reay, L F Reeve, R M Roberts, R Sangster, A Stevenson, R A C Thake, R G Tindall, A S B Walkington, M A Watkin, J D Williams, C White, C Woodward, C B Wyatt-Lowe, W J Wyatt-Lowe

#### **PARENT GOVERNOR / CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES (VOTING)**

None

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Thursday, 26 January 2017 and Thursday, 2 February 2017 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below.

*Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Committee in relation to the matters on which conclusions were reached at this meeting.*

### **PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS**

#### **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20 December 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**1(A) INTEGRATED PLAN PROPOSALS 2017/18 – 2019/20 – 26 January 2017**

[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01992 558485]

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed all Members and officers present to the Committee's scrutiny of the Integrated Plan proposals for 2017/18 – 2019/20.
- 1.2 Members received an introduction to the scrutiny; a summary by the Scrutiny Officer reminding Members of the format for the Committee's scrutiny; and an oral report from the Director of Resources who provided the Committee with the context within which the integrated plan proposals had been prepared. Members were informed that since the Governments Final Settlement announcement in December 2016, the core funding for 2017/18 had been significantly reduced by a further £34m and although substantial efficiency savings had been identified, a further saving of £41m in 2017/18 rising to £74.9m by 2019/20 was required to meet the budget gap. Members were informed there would also be a potential additional £8.5m to find should Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group withdraw funding from the Health & Community Services (HCS) budget. This has been included in the department's base budget.
- 1.3 The Director of Resources outlined the contents of the IPP pack. Members noted that Part F of the pack was a new inclusion, this was for Capital and Investment Management Strategy and Invest to Transform.
- 1.4 The Committee then adjourned to gather its evidence.
- 1.5 At the end of the evidence gathering process the session closed.

**1(B) SCRUTINY OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN PROPOSALS 2016/17 – 2019/20: REPORT TO CABINET – 2 February 2017**

[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01992 558485]

- 1.6 The Committee reconvened on Thursday, 2 February 2017 to consider a draft of its report to Cabinet, prepared by the Scrutiny Officer and the Democratic Services Officer, following the evidence gathering session on 26 January 2017.
- 1.7 As a result of its discussions, a report and suggestions for Cabinet's consideration were agreed, copies of this report can be viewed at [OSC Report 1\(B\)](#)

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- 1.8 Members noted that Cabinet would consider the Committee's report and suggestions at its meeting on 20 February 2017; Cabinet's recommendations on the Integrated Plan proposals would then be presented to the County Council on 21 February 2017, when the Council would agree its Integrated Plan for forthcoming period.

Natalie  
Rotherham  
/ Michelle  
Diprose

### **Conclusions**

- 1.9 The Committee agreed the draft report to Cabinet subject to its comments and suggestions being revised to read:-

#### **Committee Suggestions to Cabinet**

That Cabinet gives consideration to the following:-

1. Urgently develop and promote the coordination of planning and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) strategies to ensure the future infrastructure funding needs are met across the county and beyond
2. The Committee suggested that the proposal to make £60,000 saving on strategic planning whilst demand for the service was increasing to be reviewed.
3. The Committee cautioned against further reductions in Highways officer support to Members as they served as local champions for residents.
4. The Committee raised concern over the impact of a £160,000 budget gap as a result of the decision made by the Police and Crime Commissioner to remove the Police contribution to Alcohol and Drug treatment for young people within the Probation Service.

#### **Identified Risks - to be passed to the Risk Manager**

1. The increasing shortage of home care services as a significant and ongoing concern.
2. The failure of key partners and commissioned suppliers to provide the agreed level of service requiring intervention by Hertfordshire County Council.
3. The budgetary pressure on schools leaving schools unable to support Children's Services e.g. safeguarding.
4. Difficulty in recruiting professional staff, especially planners.
5. The risk of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) funding ceasing.

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6. Revenue impact of central government's decision to "top slice" business rates and the introduction of small businesses relief.

**Information provided to OSC Thursday 2 February 2017**

1. How likely is the Recycling & Energy Recovery Facility (RERF) to be granted planning permission?
2. What are the financial and service implications for Hertfordshire County Council should planning permission not be granted (to include the amount that the Authority would be contractually obliged to pay Veolia)?
3. What are the contingency plans if the proposed RERF does not go ahead (including what the cost implications might be)?
4. If access to the new RERF site required upgrading or amending of the highway who would be responsible for this?
5. The likelihood of the Fire and Rescue Service being transferred to the Police and Crime Commissioner and the financial and service implications for the Authority's Community Protection function.
6. How much, both in cash and percentage terms, does Hertfordshire County Council receive from proceeds of crime money as a result of work conducted by Trading Standards?
7. How much money is allocated to the maintenance and improvement of carriageways and footways for the next financial year? This to be broken down to show carriageways and footways separately with capital and revenue for each. Further, what was the amount spent on the maintenance and improvement of carriageways and footways in the past 4 years?
8. To make the most of Hertfordshire County Council property the Committee discussed a review of property assets to create a property company that is 100% owned by the Authority. To effect this Hertfordshire County Council has to have staff with the commercial skills to make robust property deals.

Responses from services areas are attached as Appendix 1 and 2 to the minutes.

**Committee Observations**

The Committee also requested that Cabinet and Cabinet Panels note its comments below:-

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### Adult Care & Health

1. The Committee expressed its support for the manner in which Hertfordshire County Council's Adult Care & Health team have conducted themselves in relation to the recent proposed withdrawal of funding by Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group.
2. Accessible pathways should be developed for self-funders and personal budget holders to access council services and could provide benefits to all parties.
3. There is a need to develop the range of accommodation for care leavers in county in partnership with districts/boroughs.

### Children's Services

4. There is a culture shift towards prevention and utilisation of partnerships e.g. the voluntary sector. There are ambitious targets, yet the Committee believes Children's Services is well placed to achieve these subject to external forces.
5. There have been fluctuations in Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) numbers over the last 12 months.
6. There are increasing demands on SEN services due to demographic growth pressures.
7. To review the advice and guidance provided to families just below the threshold to access Children's Social Care.
8. Support available from the Authority to schools that are not academies.
9. Potential negative impact of restructuring and reshaping the Music Service.

### Community Safety & Waste Management

10. Increasing demographic pressures facing both Community Safety & Waste Management services across the county were recognised and the ways in which these could be addressed.
11. Partnership working and collaboration has brought benefits to both services and should continue in future.
12. The Committee endorsed the Authority's encouragement of recycling across the county via the Herts Waste Partnership.
13. To consider the viability of disposing of business and commercial

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waste as well as household waste to provide an additional income stream.

14. The Chief Fire Officer to 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
  - Day-Crewing Plus initiative.
15. The Chief Officer to attend a future OSC to outline the issues arising from fly-tipping. This will follow a report to Community Safety & Waste Management Panel in February 2017.

#### Enterprise, Education & Skills

16. Increasing public understanding of apprenticeships as a valued alternate to degrees needs to be undertaken. The Authority worked closely with the University of Hertfordshire and is open to working with other organisations. Apprenticeships should be offered to existing members of staff and via the Military Covenant to members of the armed forces.

#### Environment, Planning & Transport

17. Medium and longer term planning between Hertfordshire County Council and districts/boroughs should be undertaken to ensure that suitable sized sites for school expansion.
18. There were uneven levels of co-operation and a lack of co-ordination between Districts and County in relation to planning issues.
19. A short and medium term vision to encourage bus use is required and will be addressed at the scrutiny looking at services for disabled users.
20. More radical methods should be considered to reduce home to school transport costs by running a bus service, a joint venture or schools assuming responsibility.
21. Clarify the statutory responsibilities of Transport for London (TfL) to provide services outside of Greater London into Hertfordshire. The Committee is concerned that services may not continue or will terminate on the County boundary.

#### Highways

22. Planning applications must provide more clarity on local planning decisions, including any points raised by Highways with

districts/boroughs.

23. Information to manage customer expectations (i.e. via Horizons) should be clear that the immediate priority was road safety and keeping the highways operable rather than aesthetics.
24. Information on the process of completing paperwork for enacting traffic regulation orders in line with the Highways Locality Budget; including the length of time taken and amount of paperwork is involved to be provided to Monitoring of Recommendations progress report.
25. Highways should maintain cycle paths and footways to a standard to encourage greater use and as an alternative to driving.
26. Highways should explore further the use of volunteers to undertake minor maintenance such as cleaning road signs subject to compliance with Health & Safety legislation.

#### Public Health, Localism & Libraries

27. The Committee strongly supported the principle of the Locality Budget scheme and the good work it supports within the community. It very much encourages its continuation.
28. Greater partnership between Public Health and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) is needed that recognises the contributions and pressures of both to stimulate closer working.
29. There will be opportunities to innovate and an increased need for Public Health to bid for external funding when the ring-fenced budget is removed.
30. Increasing public understanding of apprenticeships as a valued alternate to degrees needs to be undertaken. The Authority works closely with the University of Hertfordshire and is open to working with other organisations. Apprenticeships should be offered to existing members of staff and via the Military Covenant to members of the armed forces.
31. Members were disappointed at the perceived lack of progress of the Hertfordshire Civil Service. The financial and quality benefits of existing shared services between districts and between county and district/s should be highlighted to encourage further back-office sharing of services.

#### Resources & Performance

32. The Resources & Performance Panel will receive regular reports on

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the income streams from property development by the Authority and its property company (currently in development).

33. Hertfordshire County Council must ensure that qualified staff with expert and/or commercial skills are utilised when negotiating contracts to ensure robust deals are achieved; for instance the forthcoming Highways contracts negotiation.
34. Reserves should be accessed if current income does not support services (Invest to Transform budget)
35. The Invest to Transform fund should be used to improve efficiency and quality of frontline services.
36. The Committee is aware of work towards integration of data, IT systems and expertise to achieve efficiencies. It supports further initiatives to make effective use of IT and new technology internally and to interact with residents and users e.g. bus information.

#### **Proposed future scrutinies**

1. To undertake a review of the provision of day services.
2. Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board annual scrutiny considers self-esteem amongst teenage girls as its 2017 focus.
3. Review whether the nine Delivering Special Provision Locally Areas are performing consistently across the county.
4. Review of the effectiveness of the Herts Infrastructure and Planning Partnership.
5. Review the Intelligent Transport Solutions project to determine its success or otherwise.
6. To review planning approaches to identify and seek damages from individual drivers and organisations causing a hazard or damage to verges in accordance with the Highways Act 1980.
7. Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) to undertake a review of the integrated budget of mental health services.
8. HSC scrutiny to ensure that there is consistency of services across the county and that social prescribing is offered by GPs regardless of locality.



**Information note**

1. Outline the functions and remit of High Impact Gangs. To be received by OSC by 28 March 2017.

**2. OTHER PART I BUSINESS**

2.1 There was no other business.

**REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL**

A summary of item 1 will be reported to the County Council at its meeting on 20 February 2017.

Michelle  
Diprose/  
Elaine Shell

**KATHRYN PETTITT,  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

**CHAIRMAN** \_\_\_\_\_

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