

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 TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2017

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

*PARENT GOVERNOR / CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES (VOTING)

None

**denotes members appointed for education scrutiny matters only*

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday, 28 March 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

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked all Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for their positive contribution to the work of the Committee for this term of office. He thought the work they had carried had taken scrutiny to another level. He wished all Members well for the future.

The Chairman and the rest of the Committee also thanked Tom Hawkyard, Head of Scrutiny for his contribution, support and advice to them over the years. The Chairman on behalf of the Committee wished him a happy and healthy retirement.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Thursday, 26 January 2017 and Thursday, 3 February 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

1. SCRUTINY OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN 2017/18 – 2019/20: FEEDBACK

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

1.1 The Committee considered 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 the overall process should remain the same with a few refinements to improve next year’s IP scrutiny. These are summarised below:

1. To revise room allocation for groups with larger numbers of officers attending
2. To rethink the reconvened meeting i.e. allowing an extra day to finalise report and for discussions to take place on cross-cutting themes

Natalie Rotherham/
Michelle Diprose to action

Members also agreed:

- Portfolios with multiple strands would remain as this year, when being scrutinised.

1.3 The Committee suggested options for improvement to the IP scrutiny process, items discussed were as follows:

- Written guidance notes to be distributed earlier to Members
- 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.

Natalie Rotherham/
Michelle Diprose to action

1.4 The Assistant Director, Resources, gave her feedback and agreed that the process had worked well and it would be helpful to know how officers could help make the IP packs slimmer. It was agreed that ‘tablets’ would make the process more interactive and would reduce the paper content used. She suggested the possibility of a slot for members to guide them through the IP pack before the IP scrutiny to OSC and IP group chairmen. It was agreed that the report timescale was tight this year and it was difficult to provide the reconvened OSC with report of sufficient clarity for member debate..

1.5 Members noted the information requests made by the Committee in relation to the High Impact Gangs had been previously circulated to Members and was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

CHAIRMAN’S INITIALS

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1.6 The Committee agreed that the following additional scrutinies, proposed as a result of the IP scrutiny would be included in the Committee's future work programme:

- (i) To undertake a review of the provision of day services
- (ii) HSAB annual scrutiny considers self-esteem amongst teenage girls as its 2017 focus
- (iii) Review whether the nine Delivering Special Provision Locally Areas are performing consistently across the county
- (iv) Review of the effectiveness of the Herts Infrastructure and Planning Partnership
- (v) Review the Intelligent Transport Solutions project to determine its success or otherwise
- (vi) To review planning approached 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

Natalie
Rotherham/
Michelle
Diprose to
note / action
all

1.7 The Committee agreed to refer the following scrutinies, proposed as a result of the IP Scrutiny to the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) to consider adding to its work programme:

- The Health Scrutiny Committee to undertake a review of the Integrated Budget of Mental Health Services
- HSC scrutiny to ensure that there is consistency of services across the county and that social prescribing is offered by GP's regardless of locality

Natalie
Rotherham /
Charles
Lambert/
Michelle
Diprose to
note / action
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Conclusions

- 1.8
- 1. The Committee noted the feedback from the scrutiny of the IP 2017/18 – 2019/20.
 - 2. The Committee noted and agreed the suggestions for improvement to the Committee's scrutiny of the IP 2017/18 and future years, as detailed in paragraph 1.2 and 1.3 above.
 - 3. The Committee noted the information request made by the Committee as a result of the scrutiny of the IP 2017/18 – 2019/20.
 - 4. The Committee agreed the scrutinies as detailed in paragraph 1.6 above, be added to the Committees future work programme.

Natalie
Rotherham/
Michelle
Diprose to
note / action
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2. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS: UPDATE

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

**CHAIRMAN'S
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- 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 The Committee raised some concerns in relation to the Crime & Disorder Topic Group on Scamming. Members believe that there was more that Partners could be doing to assist in sharing data to stop postal scamming occurring. It was noted that the recommendations and the Executive Member response from the topic group would be presented to the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group and any concerns raised at this meeting, would be addressed there. It was also noted that evidence would need to be substantiated before the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group signed off the topic group recommendations as complete.
- 2.3 Members noted that the Executive Member responses to the Herts Waste Partnership Topic Group, Pubic Health Reduced Budget Topic Group and the Annual Crime & Disorder Topic Group on Scamming had been received.

Conclusion

- 2.4
1. The Committee noted the recommendations set out in Appendices 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and 1(d) to the report.
 2. The Committee noted the Executive Member responses to scrutiny recommendations set out in Appendix 2(a), 2(b) and 2(c) to the report, and agreed that the Monitoring of Recommendations Topic Group be requested to consider action taken on these in due course.

3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2016 – 2017

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

- 3.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2017 – 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, noting those scrutinies recently concluded and those scheduled for the forthcoming period.
- 3.2 The Committee agreed that the following scrutinies proposed as a result of the IP scrutiny would be added to the work programme:
- (i) To undertake a review of the provision of day services
 - (ii) HSAB annual scrutiny considers self-esteem amongst teenage girls as its 2017 focus
 - (iii) Review whether the nine Delivering Special Provision Locally Areas are performing consistently across the

Natalie
Rotherham
to note

Natalie
Rotherham
Charles
Lambert/
Michelle
Diprose

**CHAIRMAN'S
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- (iv) Review of the effectiveness of the Herts Infrastructure and Planning Partnership
- (v) Review the Intelligent Transport Solutions project to determine its success or otherwise
- (vi) To review planning approached 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

to note /
action all

3.3 The Committee received an Addendum to this item of business advising of a decision made by County Council on 21 March 2017 requesting that motions 16A, 16B and 16C were passed to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration for them to be added to its work programme. The Motions are as follows:

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)*
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)*
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)*

The Committee agreed that the motions as detailed above be included in the work programme and they would be discussed along with the other items already on the work programme and re-prioritised in June when the new Committee was formed.

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

3.3 The draft scoping document for the Community Protection Topic Group scrutiny, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, was also 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.'

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| 3.4 | Following general conversations around scoping future scrutinies, the Committee agreed that the questions needed to be robust to ensure that scoping documents were focused on the key issues affecting the services that were being scrutinised. Members regarded this as imperative to ensuring effective recommendations. | Natalie Rotherham / Charles Lambert / Michelle Diprose to note / action all |
| 3.5 | Members discussed the annual crime & disorder scrutiny. The focus of 2017 will be domestic abuse, as listed on the work programme. David Lloyd, the Police & Crime Commissioner, who sits on the OSC identified domestic abuse as an issue of concern to the police and agreed the police's support for this scrutiny when it takes place. | Natalie Rotherham to action |
| 3.6 | The Committee suggested for the Chairman's Briefing for scrutiny topic groups be renamed to 'Member Briefing' to encourage Members participating to attend the briefing prior to the scrutiny taking place. Also it was agreed that the briefing would take place as early as possible to identify if additional witnesses were required. | Michelle Diprose to / Democratic Services to note |
| 3.7 | The Committee were advised of the member induction pack which was currently being prepared and would be available for the new Committee in June 2017. | |

Conclusions

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| 3.8 | <ol style="list-style-type: none">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:-<ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) That the following scrutinies be added to the work programme:-<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) To undertake a review of the provision of day servicesb) HSAB annual scrutiny considers self-esteem amongst teenage girls as its 2017 focusc) Review whether the nine Delivering Special Provision Locally Areas are performing consistently across the countyd) Review of the effectiveness of the Herts Infrastructure and Planning Partnershipe) Review the Intelligent Transport Solutions project to determine its success or otherwisef) To review planning approached to identify and seek damages from individual drivers and organisations causing a hazard or damage to verges and footways in | Natalie Rotherham Charles Lambert/ Michelle Diprose to note / action all |
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CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

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accordance with the Highways Act 1980

3. No scrutinies were deleted from the work programme
4. A lunchtime seminar on Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board and Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board to be added to the work programme and the date was confirmed as Thursday 7 September 2017 in the Council Chamber.
5. The Committee noted the draft scoping document for the Community Protection Topic Group scrutiny, attached as Appendix 2 to the report. The objective of this scrutiny to 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.'

4. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

- 4.1 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 18 July 2017.

Michelle
Diprose

**KATHRYN PETTITT,
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

**CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS**

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