

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 NOVEMBER 2017

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

D Andrews (Chairman), N Bell (Substitute for J Bennett Lovell (Vice –Chairman), H K Crofton, R C Deering, K M Hastrick (Vice-Chairman), T Howard, J S Kaye, G McAndrew (Substitute for F Button), N A Quinton, I M Reay

*PARENT GOVERNOR / CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES (VOTING)

*J Cameron. A Charlwood

**denotes members appointed for education scrutiny matters only*

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Wednesday, 15 November 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

| | ACTION |
|---|---------------|
| <p>1. MINUTES [SC.8]</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Friday, 29 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that a response in relation to the Highways contracts scrutiny, from the Liberal Democrats for it to remain on the work programme was not received, this was detailed in 3.5 of the minutes.</p> | |
| <p>2. INTEGRATED PLAN (IP) 2017/18: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES BRIEF</p> <p>[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Head of Scrutiny (01992 588485)]</p> | |

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 It was noted the Director of Resources would provide an overview of the current budget position and an outline the parameters the Director has advised portfolios to take into account when preparing the IP responses. The OSC Chairman and Vice Chairmen asked that the Director also covered 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

Conclusion

The Committee agreed the recommendations, set out in 2.2 above

3. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS: UPDATE

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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Members noted that the Organisation Responses to the Nascot Lawn Topic Group (for information only) had been received.
- 3.3 Members noted that the Impact of Scrutiny (OSC) Sub-Committee (ISSC) would have its first meeting on 28 November 2017 and the ISSC Chairman would give an update at the December meeting of OSC.

Conclusion

- 3.3 1. The Committee noted the recommendations set out in Appendices 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c) to the report.

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2. The Committee noted the Nascot Lawn Organisational Response attached for information only at 2(a) to the report and agreed that the ISSC (HSC) be requested to consider action taken on these in due course.

*Natalie
Rotherham
to note*

4. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

- 4.1 The Committee noted the work being carried out on a new database for the work programme and would receive an overview at a future meeting of the OSC once some minor issues had been fixed.
- 4.2 The Committee considered its work programme 2017 – 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and those scrutinies scheduled for the forthcoming period.
- 4.3 The Head of Scrutiny gave an overview of the work being carried out of the Health Scrutiny Committee items on the work programme and reminded Members that anyone could attend the meetings.
- 4.4 In relation to the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Topic Group the Committee requested that the distribution of those listed at recommendation 1 was widened. The Committee ask that Herts for Learning distribute information regarding the Brook Sexual Behaviours Traffic Light Tool to schools purchasing its service to governors. This would be addressed in the Response that the Chairman of HSCB will provide.
- 4.5 The Committee noted and agreed the following amendments to the work programme;
 1. that the Resilience Topic Group be renamed Resilience: Hertfordshire County Council's Business Continuity Plan (BCP) as it would look at the business continuity affecting County Council services and the residents of Hertfordshire
 2. The Social Services interface with NHS lunchtime seminar would now be covered by a conference to be held in February 2018
- 4.6 The Committee received a scrutiny request in relation to 'Broadband availability to residents of Hertfordshire' for inclusion on the work programme. The Chairman agreed that this request would be considered.

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Conclusion

- 4.7
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:-
 - i. that the Resilience Topic Group be renamed 'Resilience: Hertfordshire County Council's Business Continuity Plan (BCP)' as it would look at the business continuity affecting County Council services and the residents of Hertfordshire
 - ii. The Social Services interface with NHS lunchtime seminar would now be covered by a conference to be held in February 2018
 3. A scrutiny on Broadband availability to the residents of Hertfordshire was suggested for inclusion on the work programme
 4. No scrutinies were deleted from the work programme:

*Natalie
Rotherham /
Michelle
Diprose to
action all*

5. SOCIAL CARE ASPECT OF HEALTHWATCH HERTFORDSHIRE

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

- 5.1 The Committee received an over view of the social care remit of Healthwatch Hertfordshire (HWH). The Committee heard the vision as set out by Healthwatch England was to work 'towards a society where people's 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 the received personally and held services to account. The [presentation](#) covered;

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

Healthwatch Hertfordshire wanted to establish a similar relationship with OSC as it has with Health Scrutiny Committee.

- 5.2 Members noted HWH was a charity and funding was received from the County Council via Central Government funding. It was noted

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that some fundraising had taken place but this was an area that HWH wanted to do more work around. The service had a twenty percent cut in funding in 2016/17 and HWH covered the loss from its reserves. HWH stated that 2018/19 onwards it had to ensure that there was a balanced budget and would look from other sources of funding although there was a need to retain independence and objectivity.

- 5.3 The Committee were pleased to learn that one of the initiatives in care homes was to get residents and users of the care home to learn how to use IT equipment to aid their communications e.g. via facetime, emailing and other accessible on line activities. Members suggested that large organisation be approached for donations of IT equipment to help with funding the equipment in care homes.
- 5.4 Following discussions around the partnership between HWH and Herts Valleys Clinical Commissioning Group and the Nascot Lawn situation, it was noted that mechanism were in place to ensure partnership working operated more robustly.
- 5.5 In response to a question on what HWH thought its biggest concerns were, it was noted that the issue of funding was a concern and the impact that would have on health and social care. In relation to schools and young people it was noted HWH had a dedicated officer working with young people especially around mental health. However, schools remained unexplored territory for HWH, but it welcomed any opportunity to have links into schools.
- 5.6 Members suggested that an activity to promote the work of HWH should be carried out. The Committee agreed to promote HWH as to colleagues and residents. Further information about HWH and the services that they provide can be found [here](#).

Conclusion:

- 5.7 The Committee noted the report.

6. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

- 6.1 There was no other business.

7. REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

- 7.1 A summary of all items will be reported to the County Council at its meeting on 27 March 2018.

*Michelle
Diprose*

**KATHRYN PETTITT,
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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