

# 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 FRIDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2017

### ATTENDANCE

### MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

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

\*PARENT GOVERNOR / CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES (VOTING)

\*J Cameron

*\*denotes members appointed for education scrutiny matters only*

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Friday, 29 September 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

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1. MINUTES [SC.8]</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, 21 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	
<p><b>2. INTEGRATED PLAN 2017/18</b></p> <p>[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Head of Scrutiny (01992 588485)]</p>	
<p>2.1 Members received a report providing them with the format for the Committee's scrutiny of the Integrated Plan (IP) proposals 2018/19 - 2021/22.</p>	

2.2 The Committee were provided with an overview of the timetable as detailed below:

- Tuesday, 19 December 2017 Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting in the Council Chamber. The Executive Member for Resources and the Director of Resources would present an overview of the current budget position and likely settlement for 2018/19 – 2021/22. Following the meeting there will be a short finance seminar by finance officers in preparation for the IP Scrutiny
- Friday, 19 January 2018 – IP briefing for Lead Members, Lead Officers, Executive Members and Graduate Trainees’
- Wednesday, 24 January 2018 IP Scrutiny day. It is expected that all Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would participate for the full day
- Thursday, 1 February 2018 the OSC will reconvene and discuss and agree the recommendations for the IP scrutiny to Cabinet. Lead Members of the IP scrutiny along with Graduate Trainees’, Chief Officers and Executive Members would be expected to attend this session.

2.3 Members noted that an invite would be sent to all County Councillors in October inviting their participation in the scrutiny of the IP. It was also noted that the proportionality for Chairmen was Conservative 5; Liberal Democrats 2 and Labour 1.

2.4 The Committee noted the list of IP pack questions as set out in the Strategic Direction attached at Appendix 1 to the report which would be used for the 2018/19 – 2021/22 IP Scrutiny.

### **Conclusion**

- 2.5
1. The Committee approved the proposals for its scrutiny of the Integrated Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22 as detailed in the report
  2. The Committee approved the IP questions as set out in the Strategic Direction, attached as Appendix 1)

### **3. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

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

3.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2017 – 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and those scrutinies scheduled for the forthcoming period.

3.2 The draft scoping documents for the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Topic Group, Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults

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Board Topic Group, Children in Care Council Topic Group (for information only) Community Protection Safe & Well 2017 Topic Group, Crime & Disorder Domestic Abuse 2017 Topic Group and Resilience Topic Group attached as Appendix 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d), (2(e) and 2(f), to the report were also received and no further amendments were made by members.

3.3 The Committee were informed that membership was still required for some scrutiny topic groups and asked for requests from each political group. The Democratic Service officers for the respective scrutinies will follow this up

DSO's to action

3.4 Members agreed that although the Grenfell Tower Report was not due to be published until Easter 2018 they were pleased that the 'Resilience Topic Group' would go ahead as it was based on the County Council's resilience and how it would ensure business continuity if a major incident occurred effecting County Council services and the residents of Hertfordshire.

3.5 In relation to the Highways contracts scrutiny it was noted that the Liberal Democrat Group wanted this item to remain on the work programme. This was agreed, however the Chairman asked for a written response from the Liberal Democrat group to explain why it should remain on the work programme. It was agreed that a written response would be received at the November meeting of the OSC for further discussion.

Lib Dem Group for action

3.6 The Committee agreed to remove the following scrutinies from the work programme:

1. To undertake a review of the provision of day care services
2. Review the implementation of the Care Act - focus on prevention

3.7 The Committee agreed:

1. Members Information Service – Members Seminar be removed from the work programme
2. The Social Services interface with the NHS and options for integration to include input from health bodies be changed from a lunchtime seminar to a Conference and invites to districts/boroughs and NHS partners.

### **Conclusion**

- 3.8
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

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follows:-

The Committee agreed to remove the following scrutinies from the work programme:

- i. To undertake a review of the provision of day care services
- ii. Review the implementation of the Care Act focus to be prevention

The Committee agreed:

- i. Members Information Service – Members Seminar be removed from the work programme
- ii. The Social Services interface with the NHS and options for integration to include input from health bodies be changed from a lunchtime seminar to a Conference and invite districts/boroughs and NHS partners

3. The Committee noted the draft scoping documents for the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Topic Group, Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Topic Group, Children in Care Council Topic Group (for information only) Community Protection Safe & Well 2017 Topic Group, Crime & Disorder Domestic Abuse 2017 Topic Group and Resilience Topic Group attached as Appendix 2(a), 2(b), 2(c), 2(d), 2(e) and 2(f) to the report.

Natalie  
Rotherham /  
Michelle  
Diprose to  
action all

**4. HERTFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE – UPDATE FOLLOWING INTEGRATED PLAN SCRUTINY (2017) ON RESPONDING TO MEDICAL INCIDENTS AND DAY CREWED PLUS FIRE STATIONS**

[Officer contact: Natalie Rotherham, Head of Scrutiny (01992 588485)  
Darryl Keen, Director of Community Protection and Chief Fire Officer (01992 507500)]

- 4.1 The Committee received an update on two initiatives undertaken by Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (HFRS) in relation to responding to medical incidents and day crewed plus fire stations.

- 4.2 Co-Responding to medical incidents. Members heard that co-responding was where emergency responders from the Fire & Rescue Services (F&RS) responded to 999 calls alongside the ambulance service. Co-responders have played a vital role in providing emergency patient care which includes treatment such as CPR and defibrillation which helped reduce the number of cardiac related deaths in Hertfordshire.

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- 4.3 The Committee heard although the trial had been successful it had recently ceased due to the on-going national pay dispute, though it was hoped it will be re-started once the dispute is resolved. The trial covered 5 whole-time fire stations and 1 on-call fire station. It was noted the desire of the majority of fire crews was to settle the dispute and continue with the co-responding service across the County.
- 4.4 Members heard that medical training for fire crews was not onerous as since 2013 firefighters had received training in Immediate Emergency Trauma Care to support injuries to crews and the public during incidents and in particular road traffic collisions to improve patient survival rates. Ongoing training was also provided. It was noted that the 5 whole-time stations participating in the trial did not incur any additional salary costs as firefighters were already on duty, however, there was a cost to the retained fire station in Tring as crew attending required their normal attendance payment per call.
- 4.5 Members agreed that the trial was an excellent initiative and it was a good service for the Fire & Rescue Service, the Ambulance service and in particular the residents of Hertfordshire. However, Members did not believe there was sufficient data to establish the ratio of call outs in comparison with the Ambulance Service costs and also the cost benefits of each call out. Members were informed the complete data was not available due to the trial ending sooner than expected, although the National Joint Council commissioned a mid-trial report which covered a wide range of aspects including data. The Director of Community Protection and Chief Fire Officer undertook to circulate a link to the mid-term report published by the University of Hertfordshire and provide some additional data information to the Committee.

*The Director  
of  
Community  
Protection  
and Chief  
Fire Officer  
to action*

**Conclusion**

- 4.6 Members noted the update report
- 4.7 Day Crewed Plus Fire Stations. Members heard the Day Crew Plus system was an alternative method to the whole-time staffing of fire stations and this type of system was in place at three stations within the County. It was a more efficient use of its staff as it required half the amount of staff compared to the traditional whole-time crewing model. This system relied on volunteers as there was not yet a collective agreement in place, although there were financial benefits to doing so, total savings averaged £377,000 per station per annum, this equated to £1,131,000 across the three sites with further savings related to reduction in pre-arranged overtime to cover staff deficiencies.
- 4.8 Members noted there was initial investment of £350,000 per station which provided additional separate sleeping quarters (based on a

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Travelodge style design). It was also noted that the living quarters are for firefighters and their families, although Members heard that very few families used the living quarters.

- 4.9 In response from a Member query on identifying stress levels, Members were informed the fire service was much more aware of stress and the impact of mental health issues across the service and had signed up to the 'Blue Light Mind Programme' which gave support to managers to understand and recognise the signs of mental health /stress situations. Firefighters also had medical assessments every three years which included stress management assessments.

### **Conclusions**

4.10 The Committee;

1. noted the positive benefits achieved through the introduction of the Day Crewing Plus (DCP) system over the three established sites in Hertfordshire
2. noted the effect of the introduction of additional DCP crewing systems could have on the Services resilience for significant incidents.
3. Members of the committee had found this type of session useful.

## **5. OTHER PART I BUSINESS**

5.1 There was no other business.

## **6. REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL**

6.1 A summary of all items will be reported to the County Council at its meeting on 21 November 2017.

*Michelle  
Diprose*

**KATHRYN PETTITT,  
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

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

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