

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, 19 DECEMBER 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

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

R Tindall, J Billing

*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 Tuesday, 19 December 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

(i) Welcome

The Chairman welcomed Owen Mapley, Director of Resources, Lindsey McLeod, Head of Corporate Finance, other Members in attendance and graduate trainees supporting the Integrated Plan (IP) scrutiny to the meeting.

1. MINUTES [SC.8]

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Wednesday, 15 November 2017 and Wednesday, 29 November 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2. INTEGRATED PLAN PROPOSALS 2018/19 – 2021/22:
OVERVIEW OF RESOURCES, PRESSURES AND KEY ISSUES**

[Officer contacts: Owen Mapley, Director of Resources (01992 555601), Lindsey McLeod, Head of Corporate Finance (Tel: 01992 556431)]

2.1 The Director of Resources provided the Committee with an overview of the Integrated Plan (IP) proposals for 2018/19 -2021/22 prior to the Committee’s scrutiny of the proposals early in the New Year

2.2 Members were provided with a timetable for the Plan and received information regarding strategic direction plans, revenue budget and funding, pressures, the Council’s capital programme and reserves.

2.3 Key points raised in the presentation to Members and in the Committee’s discussion are set out below (the full report to Committee can be viewed here [Integrated Plan Proposals 2018 and future years](#))

2.4 The Integrated Plan proposals would bring together the financial impact of service plans and the available funding to resource these over the next 3 years.

2.5 The funding gap, based on the Local Government Finance Settlement 2018/19, was £20.8m for 2018/19 rising to £41.8m by 2019/20.

2.6 The County Council had submitted an Efficiency Plan to Government meeting the requirements for a confirmed 4 year settlement.

2.7 The provisional settlement for local government had not been announced at the time the OSC meeting had taken place so the update on the provisional settlement was not available to Members. However the Director of Resources undertook to circulate the information once it was received.

2.8 Members were informed of other funding changes to grants such as:

- Transitional grant would end this year
- The social care grant 2017/18 was a one off grant
- The loss of the £12m 2016/17 Education Service Grant

Owen
Mapley

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from September 2017, although it was noted Government had changed their view and it was likely the funding would go through to next year.

2.9 Strategic direction plans had been produced setting out the future direction of each portfolio in the context of the wide range of service opportunities, challenges and financial pressures that each service and the Council face in the next four years. Each portfolio had identified further efficiency savings on how its services were delivered; this had been carried out through public consultation and Cabinet decisions. Services had been required to make every effort to find savings or taking preventative action. Some of the proposals currently under consideration were:

- Family Centre recommissioning
- Review of YC Herts service
- Adult Care charging policy

Given the extent of the savings required from 2018/19 onwards it would be necessary to continue to develop proposals for savings and work to identify further efficiency savings, policy options were underway and would be considered by Cabinet Panels and Cabinet in due course.

2.10 It was noted that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) issued an invitation for authorities, especially two-tier authorities and rural areas to apply to become a 100% Business Rate Pilots for 2018/19. A business case was submitted by the Council and the ten districts in October. The new pilots would be announced along with the provisional settlement.

2.11 In relation to the Autumn Budget Statement it was noted Local Authorities would get powers to charge 100% council tax on empty properties although the money the County Council received would be dependent on how much the district councils collected.

2.12 The Committee were informed of the capital priorities and other investments and how the County Council were using its assets to support its finances.

2.13 It was noted the Final Settlement and council tax and business rates figures would be received at the end of January and the Integrated Plan would be approved by County Council on 20 February 2018.

2.14 Members were reminded and encouraged to participate in the IP scrutiny and to contribute suggestions for achieving a balanced budget for 2018/19 – 2021/22.

Conclusion

2.15 The Committee noted the report

3. FINANCE SEMINAR

Officer contacts: Owen Mapley, Director of Resources (01992 555601), Lindsey McLeod, Head of Corporate Finance (Tel: 01992 556431)]

3.1 The Committee received a presentation in relation to the Integrated Plan (IP) process which outlined how to navigate the IP pack and the effectiveness of scrutiny.

3.2 Members were taken through part A to G of the IP pack and given an overview of the information the sections provided in order for them to carry out an effective scrutiny of the IP.

Conclusion

3.3 The Committee noted the seminar presentation

4. SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS: UPDATE

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

4.1 The Committee received a report providing the recommendations from the Community Protection Safe & Well Topic Group.

4.2 Members noted that the Executive Member response to the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Board Topic Group had been received.

4.3 Members noted the Impact of Scrutiny (OSC) Sub-Committee (ISSC) met on 28 November 2017 and the Minutes of the meeting was received by the Committee. The ISSC 'recommendation tracker' summarising the status of Topic Group recommendations considered by ISSC in 2017/18, was also noted.

4.4 Following discussion in relation to understanding the context of the recommendations detailed in the minutes for the ISSC it was agreed a link to the relevant topic group report would in future be included in the ISSC minutes for each item.

Conclusion

4.5 1. The Committee noted the recommendations set out in Appendices 1(a), to the report.

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2. The Committee noted the Executive Member responses to scrutiny recommendations set out in Appendix 2(a), to the report, and agreed that the ISSC (OSC) be requested to consider action taken on these in due course.
3. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Impact of Scrutiny Sub-Committee (OSC) recommendations held on 28 November 2017 and the 'recommendations tracker', attached as Appendix 3(a) and 3 (b) to the report, be noted
4. That a link would be included in the ISSC Minutes relating to the topic group report.

*Natalie
Rotherham
to note*

*Natalie
Rotherham /
Michelle
Diprose /
Elaine Manzi
to action*

5. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

- 5.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2017 – 2018, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, and those scrutinies scheduled for the forthcoming period.
- 5.2 The Committee noted the Herts Infrastructure and Planning Partnership (HIPP) and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would have the same membership for each topic group and would seek to appoint twin-tracker Members. It was also noted there would be a seminar prior to the topic groups taking place.
- 5.3 Members also discussed the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) that is already on the work programme. It recognised the overlap between the HIPP, CIL and LEP scrutinies and that this should be reflected in the timing of the scrutinies.
- 5.4 The Committee noted and agreed the following amendment to the work programme;
 1. that the HIPP and CIL seminar be added to the work programme

Conclusion

- 5.5
 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:-

*Natalie
Rotherham /
Michelle
Diprose to*

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i. that the HIPP and CIL seminar be added to the work programme

action all

3. No scrutinies were deleted from the work programme:

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 20 February 2018.

*Michelle
Diprose*

**KATHRYN PETTITT,
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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