

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 30 JANUARY 2020 AT 10AM**

Agenda Item
No.

2B

**SCRUTINY OF THE INTEGRATED PLAN 2020/21-2023/24: REPORT OF THE
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Report of the Director of Resources

Author: Natalie Rotherham, Head of Scrutiny (Tel: 01992 588485)

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet and County Council of the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a result of the Integrated Plan 2020/21 - 2023/24 scrutiny held 22 and 30 January 2020.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The Committee's scrutiny of the Integrated Plan 2020/21-2023/24 was conducted over two days. On 22 January 2020 members of the Committee and other participating County Councillors gathered evidence on the Authority's Integrated Plan proposals. It concluded on 30 January 2020, when the Committee agreed its recommendations to Cabinet. These are set out in section 3 of the report below.
- 2.2 During the evidence gathering councillors also noted observations relating to respective departments and proposed scrutiny activity. These are attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

3. Recommendation/s

The Committee's recommendations to Cabinet were as follows:

- 3.1 That ACS Connect reports to Adult Care & Health Cabinet Panel on progress of past efficiency programmes and current ACS (Adult Care Services) projects.
- 3.2 To give further consideration to replacing ACS (Adult Care Services) transport vehicles with low emission vehicles consistent with the authority's recent climate emergency declaration.
- 3.3 The Children, Young People & Families (CYPF) Integrated Plan (IP) is based on the assumption that the planned strategies relating to SEND (special educational needs) and placement of Children Looked After will be achieved within the IP budget proposals. In the light of recent financial pressures experienced by the portfolio there are budgetary risks should either strategy

fail to deliver as planned. Cabinet should seek assurance that these risks are fully understood and mitigated.

- 3.4 The business case for the re-development of Joint Emergency Services Academy (Longfield) lacked essential detail. Before the revised capital bid for the re-development of Joint Emergency Services Academy is approved, it is imperative that further information is provided, particularly on the following topics:
 - a. Specification and requirements for the project
 - b. Breakdown of costings
 - c. Details of capital contribution from Hertfordshire Constabulary
 - d. Income generation from any infrastructure proposals
- 3.5 Cabinet to clarify whether the northern waste transfer station is essential in delivering an effective network by March 2024. If so, Cabinet to establish how additional costs be accounted for in the Community Safety & Waste Management (CSWM) Integrated Plan.
- 3.6 That the Integrated Plan makes clearer how services set up as Community Interest Companies (CICs) are financially viable and provide the same equity of provision across Hertfordshire as when provided inhouse.
- 3.7 That Education can demonstrate it will manage expectations after the likely rise of 13% (2020/21) of the Direct Schools Grant (DSG) in relation to high level needs, and the likely fall to 4% in 2021/22 without implications for the IP going forward
- 3.8 To evaluate in more detail whether proposed spending on the Growth Agenda is enough to cope with the imminent demographic pressures faced by the county.
- 3.9 Modal shift is key in order to contain rising demographic pressures, however the cost implications of this are not fully explored in the IP. Evaluation therefore is required of the specific expenditure required to achieve this goal.
- 3.10 To achieve Integrated Plan aspirations and savings in relation to the Council's Prevention agenda, recommendation to Cabinet that Prevention strategies should be more fully recognised in the development of council policies across directorates and the impact is clearly identified.
- 3.11 To avoid additional costs, that Hertfordshire County Council collaborates with district and borough councils to ensure the authority's offers of employment remain attractive to recruit and retain an effective future workforce.
- 3.12 To ensure that future commercial proposals are subject to greater scrutiny so that those revenue forecasts in the Integrated Plan are more reasonable in the future in order, as some existing proposals have needed revision in the latest plan e.g. HBS and Herts Living Ltd
- 3.13 That Herts Full Stop makes better use of technology to remain competitive in an increasingly tough market.

4. Background

4.1 Included as appendices are

- Information Requests required to assist the debate at full Council 25 Feb and already actioned
- Portfolio Observations made during the scrutiny 22 January 2020
- How portfolios are addressing the Prevention Agenda
- Risks identified by the Integrated Plan Scrutiny Groups. These will be sent to the Risk Manager following the reconvened meeting on 30 January 2020.
- Scrutiny Activity suggested by the Integrated Plan councillor groups

Background Information

The Integrated Plan (IP) pack used at the IP Scrutiny can be accessed via this link <https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=2860#mgDocuments>