

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, 11 DECEMBER 2018 2.00PM

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

D Andrews (Chairman), F Button, H K Crofton, K M Hastrick (Vice-Chairman), T Howard, J S Kaye, R Mills (Vice-Chairman), I M Reay,

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

N Bell, J Billing, R C Deering, R Sangster, R A C Thake,

PARENT GOVERNOR / CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES (VOTING)

* N Punter, *J Sloan

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

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on Tuesday, 11 December 2018 at 2.00 p.m. 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

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) meeting held on 8 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday, 11 December 2018 at 10.00 a.m. will be confirmed at the OSC meeting on 23 January 2019.

2. INTEGRATED PLAN (IP): DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES UPDATE ON BUDGET POSITION 2019/20 – 2022/23

[Officer contact: Owen Mapley, Director of Resources Tel: 01992 555601]

- 2.1 The Director of Resources provided the Committee with an overview of the Integrated Plan (IP) proposals for 2019/20 -2022/23 prior to the Committee's scrutiny of the proposals early in the New Year.
- 2.2 Members were provided with a timetable for the IP 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 2019 and future years.](#))
- 2.4 Officers were unable to provide a verbal update on the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement as it was still to be released. An update would be provided at the OSC meeting 23 January for review by the IP scrutiny.
- 2.5 The Committee heard that the Chancellor's 29 October 2018 budget mainly affected local government finance relating to housing, business rates and an increase in the council tax premium for empty properties. It also provided one off amounts, for only 2019/20, of £4.134m for Winter Pressures funding to the Council's adult social care to be managed via the Better Care Fund and £7.063m of social care funding.
- 2.6 Members heard that since agreement of the budget in February 2018, there had been further increases in social care pressures. The revenue budget monitor at 30 September 2018 forecast overspending of £3.068m in adult and £3.617m in children's services by the end of 2018/19. Although the total service pressures of £5.763m forecast for 2018/19 were offset by £5m in one-off income (including £3m of grants to support adult social care) it was emphasised that, as the social care overspend was a recurrent pressure and the savings offsetting it included one-off non-recurrent funding, this overspend was not sustainable. If social care pressures continued to increase, the deficit for 2019/20 was likely to be £12m and the additional adult social care and social care funding announced by government for 2019/20 would not offset it.
- 2.7 The 2018/19 IP had identified total savings of £99m required in the 4 year IP period, and as part of this £6.6m savings needed to be

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delivered in 2019/20. However, based on emerging pressures in social care, continued demand and cost pressure in Learning Disability and Children Looked After, and increasing costs of Special Educational Need and Home to School Transport, the savings necessary were expected to rise.

- 2.8 The 2018/19 IP showed a funding gap of £28m by 2021/22, however additional pressures in maintaining a standstill budget arose from yet greater demographic changes and issues arising from the 29 October Budget such as the new National Living Rate Wage.
- 2.9 As the Office for Budget Responsibility forecast for the Consumer Price Index for 2019/20 was 1.9% and for 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 was 2.1%, public sector pay inflation above the 1% cap might also have to be accommodated.
- 2.10 Members heard that the Council Tax Base was expected to rise in 2019/20, however as an 8% raise in the social care precept had already been achieved current policy did not allow a further raise.
- 2.11 The reductions to Public Health funding were on-going and had to be managed within the internal efficiency savings required.
- 2.12 Members heard that if the County Council and districts and borough councils were selected to become a 75% Business Rate Retention Pilot for 2019/20, financial modelling of growth in business rates indicated that the County Council's share of the gains across Hertfordshire would be approximately £1.3m, however in the medium term further responsibilities from government would be expected to accompany it.
- 2.13 In view of the limited time frame between the dates of the Service Cabinet Panels, which would review the draft IP proposals, and the 18 February when Cabinet would recommend the IP for 2019/20-2022/23, Members were urged to submit all IP related queries in the period following publication (on approximately 10/12/2019) of the IP alongside the January Cabinet papers to ensure the fullest response.

Conclusion

- 2.14 The Committee noted the report

3. INTEGRATED PLAN PROPOSALS 2019/20 – 2022/23: FINANCE SEMINAR

[Officer contact: Steven Pilsworth, Assistant Director – Finance, Tel: (01992) 555737]

- 3.1 As the Committee had already been provided with the key points

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relating to the budget position for 2019/20-2022/23 under item 2 of the agenda, a finance seminar was not provided.

3.2 Members were advised that general direction to enable the Integrated Plan focus groups to carry out an effective scrutiny of the IP (i.e. information on part A to G of the IP pack and an overview of the information the sections provided) could be obtained from the 'Background to the Integrated Plan Presentation' viewed by the OSC Committee meeting on 19 December 2017; however it was emphasised that the data would now be different.

3.3 Officers agreed that to aid Members in their deliberations, the presentation provided under item 2 of the current agenda (Integrated Plan (IP): Director of Resources Update on Budget Position 2019/20 – 2022/23) and the Finance Seminar presentation provided on 19 December 2017 (Background to Integrated Plan 2018/19 – 2021/22) would be circulated by email.

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3.4 Members were advised that the breakdown of the groups undertaking the IP scrutiny would be circulated to Members when it was finalised.

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Conclusions

3.5 No seminar was provided; the issues had been addressed under item 2

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 Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Topic Group attached at Appendix 1(a) to the report.

4.2 The Committee noted the two recommendations from the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adult Board attached as Appendix 1(a) to the report.

4.3 No further Executive Member responses to the scrutiny recommendations had been received since the last OSC meeting.

4.4 Members noted the Impact of Scrutiny Advisory Committee (ISAC) had met on the 7 December 2018.

Conclusion

4.5 The Committee:

1. noted the scrutiny recommendations set out in Appendices 1(a) to the report.

*Natalie
Rotherham /
Michelle Diprose
/ Elaine Manzi*

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5. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

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

- 5.1 The Committee considered its work programme 2018 – 2019, attached as Appendix 1(a), 1(b) and 1(c) to the report, and those scrutinies scheduled for the forthcoming period.
- 5.2 The Committee noted the two scrutiny requests received from the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board Topic Group as follows:
1. That the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board self-assessment system, a review of how a Serious Adult Review (SAR) was conducted, was considered for next annual safeguarding topic
 2. That the next safeguarding topic also looked at the implementation of SARs a year after they had been completed.
- 5.3 The Committee agreed the proposed scrutiny activities and requested that these be added to the work programme as detailed below:
1. That the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board self-assessment system, a review of how a Serious Adult Review (SAR) was conducted, was considered for next annual safeguarding topic.
 2. That the next safeguarding topic also looked at the implementation of SARs a year after they had been completed.

Conclusion

- 5.4
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:-

Scrutinies to be added to the work programme

1. That the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board self-assessment system, a review of how a Serious Adult Review (SAR) was conducted, was considered for next annual safeguarding topic
2. That the next safeguarding topic also looked at the implementation of SARs a year after they had been completed.

*Natalie
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Charles Lambert
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6. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

6.1 There was no other business.

7. REPORT TO COUNTY COUNCIL

7.1 A summary of all items would be reported to the County Council at its meeting on 19 January 2019.

Michelle
Diprose/
to action

**KATHRYN PETTITT,
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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