

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 27 September 2016

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Report to Council

**Contact for further information: Councillor M Sartin
(Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Committee)**

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry, ext.4246



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report from July 2016 to the present be noted.

Report:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 19 July 2016

1. At our meeting on in July, we considered the Cabinet's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. The Committee were invited to identify issues which were of concern and the following queries were raised.
2. The following questions were for the Housing Portfolio Holder –
 - Councillor Murray wanted to ask about the 'Sheltered Housing Assets' and was interested to know if there was to be drastic change to this strategy;
 - Councillor Wixley wanted to know what was happening to the 'Off Street Parking Programme 2016/17'; And
 - Councillor Brookes wanted to know a bit more about the 'Norway House Chalets'.
3. Under the items for the Leisure & Community Services Portfolio Holder we noted an amendment for the figure for the 'Hillhouse Masterplan'; it should not be provision for 240 independent living homes but provision for up to 60 independent living units.
4. Under the Safer Greener and Transport Portfolio items, Councillor Knight wanted to know if the Environmental Charter had been agreed and was told that it was part of the work that the Green Working Party was doing and that it would be going to a Cabinet meeting for agreement. Councillor Knight explained that she was asking because of the ongoing problems at Nazeing with air quality.
5. Under the Assets & Economic Development Portfolio items, Councillor Avey questioned where we were in regards to the St John's Road site.
6. Following the meeting answers were supplied by the relevant Portfolio Holder and put in the Council Bulletin.

7. Also at this meeting we reviewed the Corporate Plan 2016-2020 and the Key Action Plan for 2017/18 connected to this. We noted that the relevant items connected to a particular Directorate would go to the associated Select Committee for closer inspection.

8. We then considered the report emanating from the recent meeting of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the four Select Committees. We reviewed the use of the PICK forms and decided that we should not be so strict with them and take a more flexible approach in facilitating their submission to O&S. We noted that the Cabinet's key decision list offered a chance for some pre-scrutiny of their up coming decisions but that also it offered the Cabinet a chance to ask for scrutiny to be carried out on some aspect of their work load.

9. We went on to review how we should handle the scrutiny of external organisations and the importance of setting clear objectives and parameters for any presentations we may receive. A more critical approach should be taken in the selection of outside organisations to be scrutinised and if it was more appropriate for them to be heard by a Select Committee rather than the main committee.

10. We also considered our work programme and decided to add scrutiny of the Central Line and TfL; Princes Alexandra Hospital Services for our residents; and Highway Services and Infrastructure within our district. We also added items to three of the Select Committee's work programmes.

11. In considering our current work programme we considered removing some of our cyclical reporting items from the Work Programme and just adding them in as standard agenda items; and wondered if the annual presentation given by the Youth Council should now go to a full Council meeting to increase the number of Councillors they connect with or perhaps they could give a presentation to councillors before the start of a council meeting as we thought that they deserved a wider audience for the work that they do.