

SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
6TH JULY 2015

Present: Councillors: Leonard Crosbie (Chairman), David Coldwell (Vice-Chairman) Alan Britten, John Chidlow, Paul Clarke, Matthew French, Tony Hogben, Tim Lloyd, David Skipp, Ben Staines,

Apologies: Councillors: Roger Clarke, Jonathan Dancer, Nigel Jupp, Brian O'Connell, Stuart Ritchie, Michael Willett

Officers: Katharine Eberhart, Director of Corporate Resources

Also present: Councillor Tricia Youtan

SO/8 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1st June 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SO/9 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

SO/10 **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Chairman of the Committee announced that the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Flooding was due to reconvene again in July and the coordinator was awaiting the Horsham nomination. Councillor John Chidlow volunteered to sit on this Group and the dates of the meetings would be sent to him.

SO/11 **REPLIES FROM CABINET/COUNCIL REGARDING SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee received the responses from the Cabinet Members to the recommendations arising from the Social Inclusion Working Group, and its review into of the effectiveness of the provision for local residents who are suffering financial hardship.

The Committee agreed that these responses needed to be discussed by the Social Inclusion Working Group at its next meeting, to consider whether the Group was satisfied with the response or whether any further follow up action was required.

One issue which was of particular concern for the Committee, which Members asked the Social Inclusion Working Group to pursue, was the issue of supporting local residents and customers who did not have access to the internet.

SO/11 Replies from Cabinet/Council regarding Scrutiny and Overview
Recommendations (cont.)

The Social Inclusion Working Group would consider the Cabinet responses at its next meeting on 28th September 2015.

RESOLVED

That the replies from the Cabinet Member for Community and Wellbeing, the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Leader to the recommendations of the Social Inclusion Working Group be received.

REASON

All Cabinet/Council replies are to be received by the Committee.

SO/12 **CRIME AND DISORDER WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE
FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
22ND JUNE 2015**

The Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee presented the notes of the Crime and Disorder Working Group, in the absence of the Working Group Chairman.

The Committee noted that the Group had received a demonstration of the Horsham District Community Safety Partnership website, along with the action plans for the Partnership for the current year.

The Committee reinforced the need to ensure that the presentation by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) was rescheduled and agreed that the Councillors should prepare any questions ahead of the presentation to send to the PCC, in order to allow her time to prepare the answers.

Members would await the date of the rescheduled presentation and then organise for the questions to be prepared and sent over to the PCC.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Crime and Disorder Working Group meeting held on 22nd June 2015, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee.

SO/13 **FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN
UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD
ON 18TH JUNE 2015**

The Chairman of the Finance and Performance Working Group presented the notes of the meeting held on 18th June 2015.

At the meeting the Working Group raised its concerns regarding the planning appeals decisions which were made by the high court and the cost of this to the Council. The Working Group had suggested implementing a “sign-off” process. However it was agreed by the Committee that the Chairman would write to the Chief Executive and ask him to provide the Committee with information regarding the current planning appeal process and once the response had been received, Members could decide whether or not it would make a recommendation to Cabinet.

Another issue considered by the Working Group was implementing charges for the rural car parks in the District.

Members of the Committee were informed that work had been ongoing for a number of months in relation to this issue. The Cabinet Member from the previous Council, along with other Councillors and officers had been exploring this issue. Consultation with the parish councils had been undertaken and this area of work was ongoing.

It was agreed by the Committee that the Chairman would write to the new Cabinet Member for the Local Economy and ask for an update on the progress of the work which had been done in the past, with the previous Cabinet Member and the proposals. Once the Committee had received the information it could decide how to proceed.

Arising from the quarterly Freedom of Information report, the Committee was concerned about the amount of officer time dedicated to significant number of Freedom of Information requests received by the Council. The Committee was informed that there was a threshold for officer time, beyond this charges could be implemented for the time taken for officers to provide a response to the request. The Finance and Performance Working Group would note this and if it agreed at its next meeting, it could request this information.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Finance and Performance Working Group meeting held on 18th June 2015, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee

SO/14 **SOCIAL INCLUSION WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE
FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH
JUNE 2015**

The Chairman of the Social Inclusion Working Group presented the notes of the meeting held on 15th June 2015.

At the last meeting, the Working Group had not received the responses from the relevant Cabinet Members, to the recommendations made in its report to the Committee into the review of the effectiveness of the provision for local residents, who are suffering financial hardship. However, the responses had since been received by the Committee but they would be reported back to the Working Group for discussion.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Social Inclusion Working Group meeting held on 15th June 2015, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee

SO/15 **HEALTH PROVISION WORKING GROUP – TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE
FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
23RD APRIL 2015**

The Chairman of the Health Provision Working Group, from the previous Council year, presented the notes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2015.

The previous Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee had been asked to write to NHS England, along with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, in respect of the health provision in the District, with particular reference to the new development in Broadbridge Heath and North Horsham.

Letters had been received in response and these were circulated at the Committee.

Overall the Committee was disappointed with the letter from Deborah Tomalin, the Head of Commissioning at NHS England (South), but Members were pleased that she had recognised that there was a problem.

Members expressed their concern again in respect of all the new development planned for the District, there remained to be a serious lack of health care facilities for the increasing population. The Committee emphasised again that this needed to be addressed and that the Council should take the lead in this.

SO/15 Health Provision Working Group – To receive an update from the Chairman and notes of the meeting held on 23rd April 2015 (cont.)

The Committee strongly recommended that Councillor Skipp, as previous Chairman of the Health Provision Working Group and along with his previous experience in the healthcare industry, should be involved in the future meetings which the Council had with the NHS representatives.

The Committee agreed that the Health Provision Working Group review the provision for a strategy or framework for the healthcare provision in the District.

RESOLVED

That the notes of the Health Provision Working Group meeting held on 23rd April 2015, be received.

REASON

All notes of Working Group meetings are to be received by the Committee

SO/16 **TO RECEIVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW WORK PROGRAMME**

The Scrutiny and Overview Committee received several suggested items for its work programme for 2015/16, arising from the previous Committee. The Committee noted these items.

In addition there were some further suggestions including a system review of the S106 agreements and CIL process, the health provision in the District and the assessment/accountability of West Sussex County Council traffic assessments and forecasts, especially relating to large planning schemes and how they were incorporated in the Horsham District Planning Framework, with particular attention being given to the North Horsham development.

The Chairman asked the Committee Members to complete a suggestion form if they had any further items which they might like to raise for the work programme. Members were also asked to give consideration to the priority of the items already raised. These would then be given consideration at the next meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and the final work programme would be agreed.

It was agreed that the item to review of the Cabinet system versus Committee system, be removed, as this was a forthcoming item for review by the Council as a whole, rather than the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and the Leader of the Council would be leading in a review of this area.

SO/16 To receive any suggestions for the Scrutiny and Overview Work Programme (cont.)

RESOLVED

That any suggestions for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee work programme be received.

REASON

All work programmes are to be received by the Committee

SO/17 **ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA BUT CONSIDERED URGENT**

The meeting finished at 7.32 pm having commenced at 5.30 pm.
CHAIRMAN