

Overview & Scrutiny

Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 4 – November 2015 – January 2016

February 2016

For more information about the role of Overview and Scrutiny and to access further information on the Select Committees please visit our web page <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council/overviewscrutiny.htm>

Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

Key Activity

The Management Committee and its Financial Planning Task Group were actively engaged in reviewing the budget proposals for 2016/17 ahead of Cabinet and Full Council. Its views were summarised in a report published following the meeting on 3 February in which it recognised the challenging economic climate facing local government and the limited options available for raising revenue.

Other Items we have looked at

O&S Member training session - questioning and listening skills

Military Civilian Integration Partnership Task Group report

Campus Governance Task Group report

.....and what we have achieved

Enhanced skills for scrutiny members in undertaking their work

A greater understanding of the complexity of this important partnership and confirmation of a focus on the Army Basing work stream

The development of a proposed framework recognising the varied nature and composition of each area board and its community area along with a series of important questions for the Cabinet Member

Health Select Committee

Key Activity

Following a successful workshop with partners and members, the committee has been refining its work priorities for the coming 12-18 months to ensure they reflect the health and social care issues that are important to Wiltshire people. The focus for the committee is on all its work being timely, proactive, outcome-focused and adding value.

Other Items we have looked at

Help to Live at Home Task Group

NHS Health Checks Programme

Better Care Plan Task Group - monitoring the implementation of the Better Care Plan

Avon & Wiltshire Partnership (AWP) Trust Joint Working Group

.....and what we have achieved

Used a range of evidence to assess how much the service fulfils its objectives and achieves value for money, also made recommendations for further improvement

Highlighted variances in the programmes implementation across the county and planned further work to assess its impact on the numbers of diagnoses and interventions

Made suggestions which were taken into account as the policy was developed.

Worked collaboratively with three other local authorities in the region to ensure progress with the Trust's improvement programme following a CQC inspection

Children's Select Committee

Key Activity

The committee received the Pupil Performance in Public Tests and Examinations 2015 at the meeting on 26 January. This was an opportunity for the committee to consider variations across Wiltshire schools.

The committee has also received updates on 8 December and 26 January on the commissioning of the adoption service to Adoptions West. This would be the subject of more detailed scrutiny as the new arrangements progress.

Other Items we have looked at

Child Sexual Exploitation Task Group

Safeguarding Children and Young People Task Group

Children's Community Health Services Rapid Scrutiny

.....and what we have achieved

The task group produced recommendations on the council's CSE action plan including ensuring that the outcomes could be measured and monitored

The task group produced 6 recommendations for the Multi Agency Forum to ensure consistency of quality and effectiveness for this key part of the council's safeguarding strategy

The rapid scrutiny exercise produced recommendations on the new performance monitoring framework resulting from the retender of Wiltshire's children's community health services.

Environment Select Committee

Key Activity

The committee considered the New Highways Contract Award at an extraordinary meeting on 12 January before it was approved by Cabinet on 19 January 2016. Following a comprehensive presentation on the procurement process the committee endorsed the recommendations within the report. The process included constructive scrutiny engagement both by the committee receiving the report prior to the decision being made by Cabinet, and by the Chair of the Highways and Streetscene Contract Task Group being involved in the evaluation interview process of potential contractors.

Other Items we have looked at

Public Transport Review Task Group

.....and what we have achieved

The task group reviewed the options being developed for public consultation and made suggestions, which were taken into account, to ensure that the full impact on members of the public of the proposed options could be measured

Resident Engagement Task Group

The task group has reviewed Wiltshire Council's Resident Engagement Strategy and has held successful evidence gathering meetings with three other housing providers in Wiltshire. This data is being used to draw up recommendations on good practice

Waste Service Changes Task Group

The task group has received information on changes to Household Recycling Centres and garden waste charges from key officers in response to budgetary pressures. The review will include visits to three sites across Wiltshire to gather first-hand evidence

Want to know more?

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