

# Overview & Scrutiny

## Bi-Annual Newsletter

Issue Q1 – May 2016 – October 2016

November 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

In June the Management Committee held a special meeting to decide whether to 'call in' a decision regarding the county's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs). Overview and Scrutiny committees can '[call in](#)' executive decisions to ensure that the proper processes have been followed. The proposed [decision](#) in this case was the introduction of a permit scheme for voluntary organisations wishing to use HRCs. Following a lengthy discussion, the Committee resolved that the principles of decision making had indeed been followed and the permit scheme could be implemented.

#### Other items we have looked at

**Voluntary groups using Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)**  
**Hydrocarbon Extraction (fracking)**

**4-Year Financial Settlement**

#### .....and what we have achieved

Ensured that proper processes had been followed before changes to HRC use were implemented

Explored the legal framework around 'fracking' and checked what policies the council has in place

Scrutinised the pros, cons, risks and opportunities of accepting the 4-year financial settlement offered to the council by Central Government

### Health Select Committee

#### Key Activity

Many of the topics looked at by the Committee are affected by the aging population and the increasing need for care services. The committee always looks for opportunities for greater integration between different health care services in order to improve the use of resources and the customer experience.

## **Other Items we have looked at**

### **Charges for Adult Care**

### **.....and what we have achieved**

Assured the consultation process for changes to charges for adult care and planned future checks on their impact

### **Helping pharmacists do more**

Began developing a training programme to enable pharmacists to play a greater role in providing local health care services

### **Wiltshire ambulance service**

Scrutinised the response times and other performance measures of the South West Ambulance Service Trust in Wiltshire

### **Standards of care at local acute hospitals**

Held to account the Great Western and Salisbury District hospitals for recent CQC inspection gradings of "Requires Improvement"

## **Children's Select Committee**

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### **Key Activity**

The Committee continues to focus on important issues in Children's Services, including Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH); Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE); School Improvement and Academisation.

### **Other Items we have looked at**

### **.....and what we have achieved**

### **Department for Education White Paper: Educational Excellence Everywhere**

Received a special briefing session to consider the effects of the government white paper.

### **Wiltshire Assembly of Youth (WAY)**

As part of a commitment to closer working with young people the committee now receives update reports from their young people's representative

### **Early Help Dataset**

Gained assurance that the Early Help Dataset was a suitable mechanism for providing oversight and delivery of the Early Help Strategy, and that its recommendations had been acted upon.

# Environment Select Committee

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## Key Activity

The committee was informed of the changes to Library Service and was pleased to note that Wiltshire had retained the same number of static libraries since 2009.

The committee led the way in using information on complaints made to the council to monitor public satisfaction with its services. It plans to expand on this to review all customer's feedback available to the council (compliments, comments and complaints) to ensure the committee's forward work plan remains well informed.

## Other Items we have looked at

### Waste Service Changes Task Group

### .....and what we have achieved

Endorsed the 18 recommendations in the task group's final report, which focused on Household Recycling Centre's, Green Waste collection charges and fly-tipping

### Resident Engagement Task Group

Endorsed the task group's 11 recommendations and a meeting between the task group and members of the Housing Panel was established in November to consider the effectiveness of Housing Panel meetings and the Council's Housing webpages

### Highways Major Maintenance Programme

Received the first annual report since the new highway contract started and was assured that good progress had been made on implementing the 'Local Highways Investment Fund 2014 - 2020', and there had been a substantial improvement in road conditions in Wiltshire

## Want to know more?

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