

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD - 4 MAY 2016****2015/16 END OF YEAR SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME REPORT AND
SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT****REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY TEAM****1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an end of year report on delivery of the 2015/16 Scrutiny Work Programme to enable the Board to monitor performance and agree any actions arising from the report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Management Board note the report and agree any actions deemed necessary arising from the report.
- 2.2 That the Scrutiny Management Board approve the draft 2015/16 Scrutiny Annual Report for presentation to Full Council.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Work Programme is reviewed annually by the Scrutiny Management Board at the start of the municipal year. The Board is responsible for determining the strategic priorities for scrutiny, allocating scrutiny resources and monitoring delivery of the work programme. The Scrutiny Committees agree their own work programme having regard to the views and wishes of the Board and progress is reported back to the Board.
- 3.2 The Board met in July 2015 to review the work programme and agreed:
- A full work setting process was not necessary due to the number of items carried over from the previous year;
 - That the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee review of Multi-Agency Working Against CSE would be prioritised for resource but resources could be balanced out over a two year period;
 - The allocation of resources using a benchmark number of supported meetings per committee as a way of managing the workload;
 - Recommendations about the work programme for the Scrutiny Committees to consider.
- 3.3 The Board has monitored delivery of the work programme through interim reports and Chairs' updates at meetings on 4 November 2015 and 17 March 2016.

4.0 DELIVERY OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 A summary of the work undertaken by the Scrutiny Management Board and the Scrutiny Committees in 2015/16 is provided in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 4.2 The information is presented in the form of a draft Scrutiny Annual Report with the dual purpose of reporting end-of-year performance to the Board and for the Board to consider the content and format for presenting the Annual Report to Full Council and to make available to the public. The format streamlines information provided in previous Annual Reports to focus on the range of issues scrutinised and how scrutiny has made a difference.
- 4.3 The Board may wish to note some key achievements from this year:
- The in-depth review of Multi-Agency Working Against Child Sexual Exploitation by the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee is an excellent example of how scrutiny can engage and work with a range of key partners at a strategic and operational level, engage local people and communities on a sensitive issue, and importantly to give people affected by CSE and their families a voice through a range of media. The report is due to be published on 10 May and will make a number of recommendations to local and national bodies. The Local Children Safeguarding Board was engaged early on to secure the support and commitment of the Board and individual member organisations. Cabinet and the LSCB will respond to scrutiny's recommendations in June or July.
 - The Finance & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee focused on individual savings proposals which Members felt would impact on service users and members of the public. The Committee made a number of recommendations to Cabinet as a result of which some of the savings proposals were reconsidered or reversed in the final budget strategy taken to Council.
 - The Customer, Community & Partnership Scrutiny Committee has shown what can be accomplished by working flexibly and with efficient use of resources. Allocated only a limited amount of resource, the committee has maximised opportunities to feed into policy development in several key policy areas including the Housing Allocations Policy, Council Tax Support and Bus Subsidies. The committee provided an independent view to Cabinet on traffic signals which had become a controversial issue for some members of public and had received significant media attention.
 - The Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee has monitored the Adult Care budget and savings. The Committee supported the development of the new ways of working and will continue to monitor delivery of the savings against the target and the feedback from service users and their carers. The Committee has also scrutinised the changes to the provision of GP services in the Town Centre, the future of the NHS Walk in Centres, responded to the consultation on the future of Castle Lodge and the subsequent commissioning review for Community mental health services.
 - The Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Shropshire has monitored the planning and consultation on the NHS Future Fit Programme, deficit reduction strategy, strategic transformation plan, plans

to improve the hospital discharge process, the future provision of community services through the Community Fit Programme, Future provision of rural urgent care centres, commissioning arrangements for the emotional health and wellbeing service for 0-25 year olds and the provision of out of hours GP services and the 111 NHS non-emergency telephone service.

- The Scrutiny Management Board has remained committed to Holding the Executive to Account. Challenging the Executive to explain and justify their actions is an important scrutiny function which helps ensure decision making at the Council remains democratic, open and transparent. The Board has also provided strong leadership in setting the priorities for scrutiny and managing the competing interests of individual Scrutiny Committees.

4.4 The following sections of this report contain information additional to that provided in the draft Scrutiny Annual Report.

5.0 SCRUTINY MEETINGS

5.1 At the start of the year the Board set a benchmark number of supported meetings per Scrutiny Committee as a way of managing the workload and targeting resources on priority issues. The table below shows the benchmark allocation and the actual number of meetings held during the 2015/16 municipal year.

5.2 Four meetings held jointly with more than one Scrutiny Committee have been attributed to the lead Scrutiny Committee to avoid duplication of counting. Members of the relevant Scrutiny Committee were also invited to the Scrutiny Management Board Holding to Account sessions to ask questions on issues within the committee's remit.

Committee	Benchmark set	Committee meetings actual	Working groups actual	End of year total actual
Scrutiny Management Board	4	4	0	4
Children & Young People	30	2	25	27
Customer, Community & Partnership	3	4	2	6
Finance & Enterprise	4	5	0	5
Health & Adult Care (including Joint HOSC)	6	7	1	8
Total	47	22	27	50

6.0 REVIEW OF SCRUTINY CO-OPTEEES

6.1 In July 2015 the Scrutiny Management Board agreed to review non-statutory scrutiny co-optee arrangements. Under the Terms of Reference for the

Scrutiny Committees there is provision to appoint up to 4 non-statutory co-optees per committee. The statutory co-optees on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee were not included within the scope of the review.

6.2 In November 2015 the Board received a detailed report on the review and the recruitment process carried out in accordance with the process in the Scrutiny Handbook. The aim was to open up fresh opportunities for people to get involved, to enhance the skills-set of the committees and to encourage applications from Town and Parish Councillors to strengthen links with Town and Parish Councils.

6.3 Some non-statutory co-optee positions are allocated to certain groups who nominate their representative:

- Healthwatch and the Senior Citizens' Forum nominate a representative to sit on the Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee
- The Primary Heads' Forum Executive Committee nominates a representative to sit on the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee.

6.4 The table below shows the appointment of co-optees confirmed to date.

Committee	Co-optee	Organisation (where appropriate)	New or re-appointment
Children & Young People	Carolyn Healy Sandra Osman Lyn Fowler	The Gorge PC Primary Head Newport TC	New Re-appointment New
Customer, Community & Partnership	TBC		
Finance & Enterprise	Cindy Mason-Morris Roy Williams	Wellington TC	New Re-appointment
Health & Adult Care	Jean Gulliver Rajash Mehta Barry Parnaby Dag Saunders	Ketley PC Healthwatch Senior Citizens' Forum	Re-appointment New Re-appointment Re-appointment

7.0 OTHER SCRUTINY WORK

7.1 National and Regional Scrutiny Networks

7.1.1 Telford & Wrekin scrutiny Members and officers have continued to participate in national and regional scrutiny networks to keep up to date with legislation, national policy and share learning with other authorities. The relevance of agenda items and an assessment of the likely benefits determine which meetings are attended and by whom.

7.1.2 This year officers and/or Members have attended 2 County & Unitary Councils' Scrutiny Officers Network, 1 Regional Health Scrutiny Network and 2 West Midlands Scrutiny Network meetings. Key issues discussed include

the impact of austerity cuts on scrutiny, scrutiny and the West Midlands Combined Authority and key issues for health scrutiny.

7.2 Scrutiny Suggestions

- 7.2.1 A total of seven scrutiny suggestions were received from members of the public and considered by the Board:
- Six suggestions related to one planning application and associated matters. The suggestions were rejected by the Board as scrutiny cannot look at planning decisions but the Board requested a report on complaints about the planning process and how they are used to improve the service.
 - One suggestion related to the work of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust which the Board rejected as there are no powers of scrutiny over the Trust.

7.3 Call-in and requests for urgent decisions to be taken

- 7.3.1 There were no call-in requests during 2015/16.
- 7.3.2 Provisions in the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 require that:
- Where a Key Decision is not published with 28 clear working days' notice, the relevant Scrutiny Chair must be notified of the decision to be taken, or
 - Where a Key Decision is not published with 5 clear working days' notice, consent must be sought from the relevant Scrutiny Chair for the decision to be taken, or
 - Where a decision contains information exempt under legislation and at least 28 clear days' notice has not been given, consent must be sought from the relevant Scrutiny Chair for the report to be exempted.

One such request was received during the year seeking consent to exempt a report to Cabinet on the Telford Land Deal. Consent was granted by the Chair of the Customer, Community & Partnership Scrutiny Committee.

8.0 SCRUTINY TEAM

- 8.1 A restructure came into effect on 1 April 2016 which brought scrutiny within the wider team under the Democratic & Scrutiny Services Team Leader. The structure was designed to enable scrutiny skills to be spread across the wider team to build resilience and capacity to support scrutiny work.

9.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Scrutiny Committees consider the equal opportunities implications for the issues within their work programmes.
- 9.2 The process to appoint scrutiny co-optees was carried out in accordance with the Council's equalities policies and equalities legislation.

10.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The direct cost of delivering the Scrutiny Service during 2015/16 was £0.113m and was met from within the overall budgets available which included the additional capacity to support the Review of Multi-Agency Working Against Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 10.2 Scrutiny played an important part in the budget consultation process and held a series of meetings during January and February 2016 to review the 2016/17-2017/18 Service & Financial Planning (budget) Strategy published by Cabinet and alternative proposals put forward by the main opposition group. Their response fed into the decision making process for the final budget strategy which was approved at Full Council in March 2016.

PH – 22/4/16

11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The work undertaken by the Scrutiny Management Board and Scrutiny Committees is subject to the defined requirements for the scrutiny function, as set out in part 1A, Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (as amended) and in associated legislation and statutory instruments.
- 11.2 Locally the Council's Scrutiny Rules are published at pages 62 to 72 of the current version of the Council's Constitution and further details are contained in The Scrutiny Handbook.

KF 25/04/2016

12.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Environmental issues fall within the remit of the Customer, Community & Partnership Scrutiny Committee and implications will be considered as part of a review.
- 12.2 Environmental implications are considered as part of a scrutiny report where relevant.
- 12.3 Democratic and Scrutiny services are committed to moving to electronic working which will reduce paper waste.

13.0 WARD IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There are no direct ward implications arising from this report.
- 13.2 Scrutiny considers matters on a borough-wide basis but any ward implications would be considered as part of a scrutiny review.

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