

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 June 2014

DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2013-14

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN - COUNCILLOR PINES

Contact Officer: Colin Veal Tel No: 01962 848 438 cveal@winchester.gov.uk

RECENT REFERENCES:

OS73 – Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2012-13 – 20 May 2013

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the end of each Municipal Year, the Chair of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee for that year reviews the work of all overview and scrutiny bodies and provides a report back to Council.

The draft report for the 2013-14 Municipal Year is attached so that The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can add its comments before it is finalised for presentation to Council on 16 July 2014.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee considers the draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2013-14 and suggests any additions or amendments for consideration by Council.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND DETAILED CHANGE PLANS
(RELEVANCE TO):

Scrutiny has a key role in ensuring that the Council is efficient and effective.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Scrutiny is undertaken within the existing budgets of the Council, although costs are not separately identified.

RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

APPENDICES:

Draft Winchester City Council Annual Scrutiny Report 2013-14



Winchester
City Council

Annual Scrutiny Report

2013-14

Introduction

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee keeps an overview of how Cabinet has delivered the priorities and aims of the City Council. It can scrutinise any decision made by the Cabinet or by Council Officers to ensure that it was delivered within the City Council's budget and policy framework for the benefit of the District's residents. The Committee is also able to 'call-in' a decision that Cabinet had made, or had yet to make, that was outside the agreed budget for that year and that was likely to cost over £50,000. The Committee has taken a major role in the development of the Capital Programme and the General Fund Budget.

During the 2013/14 Municipal Year, the Committee has managed a programme of task-and-finish Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISGs) led by the six appointed 'scrutiny leads'. These groups provide opportunities for non-executive Members to potentially influence new Council policy and respond to new legislation. They also undertake in-depth investigations into areas of the Council's work (including those functions delivered in partnership) to ensure that quality, good value services continue to be delivered to those who live, work or visit Winchester and its District. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee then considers ISG recommendations for referral onwards to Cabinet or the relevant Portfolio Holder (via the Portfolio Holder Decision Notice process), whose response is then monitored to ensure these are implemented, wherever possible, without delay.

The Committee particularly welcomes engagement with residents and other community representatives during its public participation session. During 2013/14, local residents commented on:

- The City Council's Efforts to Reduce its Carbon Footprint ISG (OS75) - Winchester Action against Climate Change, WinaCC
- River Park Leisure Centre (CAB2505) – Winchester Fit for Future
- River Park Leisure Centre: Public Request for an Investigation into Contractual Matters (OS95 refers)

In response to some concerns raised by elected Members, as Chairman, I arranged for representatives from the Council's major contractors to be questioned by the Committee on the performance of its housing maintenance contract and the Depot Services Contract.

Cllr Chris Pines - The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman 2013-2014

THE ROLE OF SCRUTINY IN THE COUNCIL

Winchester City Council operates a 'strengthened' Leader and Cabinet Executive model. Members of the Cabinet manage the majority of the Council's business, while scrutiny bodies oversee the discharge of the Council's work.

The role of scrutiny is to review, challenge and develop what the City Council does, making sure the right decisions are being made by Cabinet, in line with the general policies set by full Council, for the benefit of the Winchester District and its residents and businesses.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 required the Council to designate a scrutiny body as its 'Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee'. It could also consider individual matters related to crime and disorder issues referred from the local level. This role is undertaken by The Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Petition organisers also have the right to request that The Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the steps that the Council has taken in response to a petition.

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Chairman: Cllr Chris Pines

HOLDING PORTFOLIO HOLDERS TO ACCOUNT

Portfolio Holders were questioned as and when necessary on individual items. This included:

- Fieldfare Leader Funding and the Future (OS72 refers)
- Capital Expenditure Outturn 2012/13 (CAB2492 refers)
- General Fund Revenue Outturn 2012/13 (CAB2493 refers)
- Capital Strategy (CAB2510 refers)
- Financial Strategy 2014/15 – 2018/19 (CAB2502 refers)
- River Park Leisure Centre (CAB2505 refers)
- Outcome of the Council's Corporate Peer Challenge (CAB2512 refers)
- Complaints Received by the Council 2012/13 (OS76 refers)
- Depot Contract Services Annual Review 2013 (OS86 refers)
- General Fund Budget 2014/15 (CAB2523 refers)
- Future of Museums Services: Establishing a Hampshire Solent Cultural Trust (CAB2518 refers)
- Community Safety Partnership – Performance Update (OS87 refers)
- Capital Programme Budget Considerations (CAB2541 refers)
- Estates Restructure (Exempt Report, PER241 refers)
- Winchester District Car Parking Strategy (CAB2539 and OS92 refers)
- Housing Revenue Account Budget 2014/15 and Business Plan 2014/15 – 2043/44 (CAB2548 HSG refers)
- Budget and Council Tax 2014/15 (CAB2555 refers)
- Treasury Management Strategy 2014/15 (CAB2554 refers)

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- River Park Leisure Centre Replacement Options (CAB2553 refers)
- River Park Leisure Centre: Public Request for an Investigation into Contractual Matters (OS95 refers)

INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUPS – 2013/14

During 2013/14 the Committee received final reports from:

- Houses in Multiple Occupation ISG (OS69 refers)
- The Guildhall as a Commercial Venue ISG (OS84 refers)
- Council's Ability to Implement ISG Recommendations ISG (OS82 refers)
- Consultation ISG (OS90 refers)
- How we Resolve Exclusion ISG (OS93 refers)
- Member Involvement ISG (OS96 refers)

And progress reports on the recommendations of the following ISGs:

- The City Council's Efforts to reduce its Carbon Footprint ISG (OS75 refers)
- Commissioning and the Voluntary and Community Sector (OS80 refers)
- Local and National Performance Indicators and their Value to the Council ISG (OS79 refers)
- Review of Statutory Services ISG (OS83 refers)
- Project Integra and Recycling ISG (OS88 refers)
- Air Quality Management (OS89 refers)

The Committee also appointed the following Batch 5 ISGs to commence their work in due course:

- How we respond as a City Council to homelessness
- How we respond as a City Council to domestic violence
- River Park Leisure Centre
- Abbey House
- Flooding
- Fuel Poverty

An archive of all the previous in-depth scrutiny reviews undertaken by ISGs is accessible via the Council's website [via this link](#).