

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 May 2016

DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2015/16

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN - COUNCILLOR COOK

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RECENT REFERENCES:

OS126 – Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15 – 1 June 2015

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 2015/16 Municipal Year is attached so that The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can add its comments before it is finalised for presentation to Council on 20 July 2016.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee considers the draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2015/16 and suggests any additions or amendments for consideration by Council.

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REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

DETAIL:

Introduction

At the special meeting of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 18 April 2016, the Chairman, Councillor Simon Cook, provided an introduction to the Draft Annual Scrutiny report, which was noted by the Committee and is now due for full consideration by the Committee.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND PORTFOLIO 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:

Appendix 1 - Draft Winchester City Council Annual Scrutiny Report 2015/16



**Winchester**  
City Council

# **Annual Scrutiny Report**

## **2015/16**

## 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 £100,000. The Committee has taken a lead role in developing the Capital Programme, General Fund Budget and Sustainable Community Strategy. It was also consulted on the Council's 'Change Plans'.

During 2015/16, The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has covered many areas of work, as set out in the report below. However, a significant amount of time was concerned with the involvement in the Silver Hill project, which was a subject that featured as an agenda item in several meetings. This included the presentation of the Report of the Independent Review by the author to a packed public meeting with the Audit Committee on 10 February 2016.

This presentation was followed by a meeting to consider what recommendations to make to Cabinet, but in the event the Committee decided to note the report, rather than endorse the recommendations. Subsequently, the Cabinet referred the issue back to the Committee, who at the meeting on 22 February 2016 revised and refined the recommendations to make them more practical in terms of implementation, and these were accepted for action. The Leader has since created a Task and Finish Group to implement the Claer Lloyd Jones recommendations as appropriate.

Prior to the receipt of the Report of the Independent Review, I carried out some research into the operation of the Overview and Scrutiny committee in other comparable local authorities and presented my preliminary findings (Report OS136 refers) to the December meeting. However the Committee decided that changes were premature at that time in view of the anticipated receipt of the long awaited Claer Lloyd Jones Report. Subsequently, after consideration of the Report recommendations, it is likely that there will be a review of the operation and process of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee during new Municipal Year.

The main report covers the work carried out during the year, which included a wide range of topics, with the Leader, Portfolio Holders and officers regularly the meetings to clarify specific issues and respond to questions points of detail. I have endeavoured to control these meetings and keep the length to a reasonable time, although the meeting at which the Claer Lloyd Jones Report was presented, proved something of a challenge! I have been greatly helped in my task in managing meetings by the Vice Chairman – Councillor Stallard, by our efficient committee support staff and by the general good humour of the members. My thanks to all who contributed to the work of The Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the Civic year 2015/6.

**Cllr Simon Cook - The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman 2015/16**

## 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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## THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2015/16

**Chairman: Cllr Simon Cook**

### (i) Holding Portfolio Holders to account

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

- Phasing of Funding for Public Art: West of Waterlooville Major Development Area (Berewood Site) (CAB2684 refers)
- Anti-Social Behaviour – Crime and Policing Act 2014 (CAB2691 refers)
- Risk Management Policy 2015 (AUD118 refers)
- Performance Monitoring Update – Portfolio Plans Outturn 2014/15 (OS128 refers)
- Devolution: Developing Proposals for Developed Powers and Responsibilities (CAB2703 refers)
- Housing Revenue Account 2014/15 Outturn (CAB2696 (HSG) refers)
- Capital Expenditure Outturn 2014/15 (CAB2697 refers)
- General Fund Revenue Outturn 2014/15 (CAB2698 refers)
- Silver Hill: Submissions by Silver Hill Winchester No. 1 Ltd and Council's Response (CAB2700 refers)
- 153 High Street, Winchester (CAB2706 refers)
- Casson Block, St Georges Street – Forecourt/Frontage Enhancing Scheme (CAB2712 refers)
- Options for River Park Leisure Centre (CAB2708 refers)
- Magdalen Hill Cemetery Extension (CAB2714 refers)
- Capital Strategy 2015 (CAB2710 refers)
- Devolution: Update on the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Submission to Government (CAB2715 refers)
- Complaints Received by the Council (OS130 refers)

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- St Clement's Surgery (EXEMPT) (CAB2709 refers)
- Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 – 20/21
- Mid Year Performance Against Portfolio Holder Plans (OS131 refers)
- Response to Notices of Motion to Council on Recent Government Housing Announcements (CAB2723 refers)
- Winchester Extra Care Scheme – Authorisation to Proceed (CAB2724 refers)
- Annual Community Safety Partnership Performance (OS135 refers)
- Draft Portfolio Plans 2016/17 (CAB2741 refers)
- General Fund Budget 2016/17 – Capital and Revenue Considerations (CAB2739 refers)
- Review of Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CAB2740 refers)
- North Winchester Flood Alleviation Scheme (CAB2751 refers)
- Electoral Review of Hampshire: Draft Recommendations (CAB2753 refers)
- Review of Scrutiny Process – Chairman's Report (OS136 refers)
- Update on Creative Enterprise Centre (CAB2750 refers)
- Silver Hill Winchester – Situation Report and Assessment (CAB2752 refers)
- General Fund Budget Consultation Update (CAB2756 refers)
- Silver Hill Regeneration – Status Report (CAB2755 refers) and Addendum (OS137 refers)
- Silver Hill: Independent Review (OS139 refers)
- Housing Revenue Account Budget 2016/17 and Business Plan (CAB2761 (HSG) refers)
- Budget and Council Tax 2016/17 (CAB2763 revised refers)
- Treasury Management Strategy 2016/17 (CAB2766 revised refers)
- Silver Hill: Independent Review Recommendations (CAB2779 refers)
- Proposed Purchase of Milford House and Gordon Watson House, Christchurch Road, Winchester (CAB2780 refers)
- Agreed Responses to Recommendations – Update following discussion of Informal Policy Group (IPG) (OS142 refers)
- St Clement's Doctors Surgery, Winchester (CAB2786 refers)
- Update Briefing on Silver Hill and River Park Leisure Centre (Oral Report)

### **(ii) Informal Scrutiny Groups – 2015/16**

During 2015/16 the Committee received final reports from the following Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISGs), which were agreed and forwarded to Cabinet and/or Portfolio Holder for implementation:

- Choice Based Lettings ISG (CAB2795 (HSG) refers)

During 2015/16 the Committee also made appointments to the River Park Leisure Centre ISG. The discussions of the ISG were taken on board by the Portfolio Holder and the Leader at an early stage and were taken forward as part of the proposals now under consideration by Cabinet.

At its meeting on 15 September 2014, the Committee agreed that 12 month reviews of Informal Scrutiny Group (ISG) recommendations would be brought together into a single report and presented half-yearly. It was anticipated that this would contribute towards supporting good agenda management.

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As a result of this, at its meeting on 18 January 2016 the Committee considered a 12 month review of progress on the recommendations of the following ISGs (OS134 refers):

- Fuel Poverty ISG
- Flooding ISG
- Domestic Violence ISG
- Abbey House ISG

New ISG appointments to be made by the Committee for 2016/17 as follows:

- Covalent Performance Management Software ISG

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

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