

REPORT TITLE: DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2016/17

22 MAY 2017

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN – COUNCILLOR LEARNEY

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WARD(S): ALL

PURPOSE

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 2016/17 Municipal Year is attached so that The Overview and Scrutiny Committee can add its comments before it is finalised for presentation to Council on 19 July 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee considers the draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2016/17 and suggests any additions or amendments for consideration by Council.

## 1 RISK MANAGEMENT

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<i>Property N/A</i>		
<i>Community Support N/A</i>		
<i>Timescales N/A</i>		
<i>Project capacity N/A</i>		
<i>Financial / VfM N/A</i>		
<i>Legal N/A</i>		
<i>Innovation N/A</i>		
<i>Reputation N/A</i>		
<i>Other N/A</i>		

## 2 SUPPORTING INFORMATION:

2.1 None

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:-

#### Previous Committee Reports:-

OS148 – Draft Annual Scrutiny Report – 23 May 2016

#### Other Background Documents:-

None

### APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Draft Winchester City Council Annual Scrutiny Report 2016/17



**Winchester**  
City Council

# **Annual Scrutiny Report**

## **2016/17**

### 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 continues to take a lead role in developing the Capital Programme, General Fund Budget and Council Strategy. During the 2016/17 Municipal Year, the Committee has managed a programme of task-and-finish Informal Scrutiny Groups (ISGs) led by six appointed 'scrutiny leads'. These groups provide opportunities for non-executive Members to potentially influence 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 had been consulted on some major Council projects throughout 2016/17. These have included the Leisure Centre Project and various reports in relation the development of the Station Approach area.

The Committee particularly welcomes engagement with residents and other community representatives during its public participation session. During 2016/17, local residents commented on numerous matters including:

- Station Approach – Report on Design Competition (Less Exempt Appendix) (CAB2802)
- Leisure Centre Replacement Project (CAB2820 refers)
- Station Approach – Economic and Financial Appraisal (Less Exempt Appendices) (CAB2823 refers)
- Station Approach – Designers Appointment (Less Exempt Appendix) (CAB2824 refers)
- Station Approach Update (CAB2852 refers)
- Station Approach – End Stage Review Report for the Competitive Dialogue Process (OS157 refers)
- Winchester Air Quality Action Plan (CAB2869 refers)
- Monitoring of Core Funded Organisations (OS158 refers)
- Mid Term Refresh of the Parking Strategy (CAB2874 refers)

During the forthcoming year, a review of the Council's own scrutiny processes will continue to be carried out, to ensure that the Council's major projects are delivered efficiently and with maximum benefit to residents, achieving the best value for money. The Committee will no doubt continue to be consulted on further opportunities for efficiency savings in the delivery of its services, in response to the continuing economic challenges facing local government.

**Cllr Kelsie Learney - The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman 2016/17**

## 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 – 2016/17

**Chairman: Cllr Kelsie Learney**

### (i) Holding Portfolio Holders to account

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

- Station Approach – Report on Design Competition (CAB2802 refers)
- Leisure Centre Replacement Project (CAB2820 refers)
- Capital Expenditure Outturn 2015/16 (CAB2811 refers)
- General Fund Outturn 2015/16 (CAB2812 refers)
- Portfolio Plans Outturn (OS151 refers)
- Risk Management Policy 2016 (AUD156 refers)
- Housing Revenue Account 2015/16 Outturn (CAB2808 (HSG) refers)
- Station Approach – Economic and Financial Appraisal (CAB2823 refers)
- Station Approach – Designers Appointment (CAB2824 refers)
- Station Approach – The Way Forward (CAB2829 refers)
- Efficiency Plan 2016 – 2020 (CAB2827 refers)
- Annual Review of Complaints Received by the Council (OS152 refers)
- Station Approach Update (CAB2852 refers)
- Response to Councillor Burns Notice of Motion from Council 13 April 2016 (CAB2849 (MP) refers)
- Performance Monitoring Update – Portfolio Holder Plans Mid Year 2016/17 (OS154 refers)
- Medium Term Financial Strategy (CAB2844 refers)
- Confidential Item – Report by Assistant Director (Estates and Regeneration (Exempt Report) (CAB2853 refers)

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- Station Approach – End Stage Review Report for the Competitive Dialogue Process (OS157 refers)
- Approval of Key Measures for Winchester Air Quality Action Plan (CAB2869 refers)
- Draft Council Strategy 2017-2020 (CAB2876 refers)
- Annual Emergency Planning Report (OS149 refers)
- Asset Management Plan 2016-2021 (CAB2870 refers)
- Annual Community Safety Partnership Performance Review (OS153 refers)
- Monitoring of Core Funded Organisations (OS158 refers)
- Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2017 (CAB2889 refers)
- Mid Term Refresh of the Parking Strategy (CAB2874 refers)
- Medium Term Financial Strategy, Budget and Council Tax 2017/18 (CAB2896 refers)
- Establishing Local Housing Companies to Support New Homes Development (CAB2911 (HSG) refers)
- Station Approach RIBA Plans for Works Stages Documentation (CAB2864 refers)

### **(ii) Informal Scrutiny Groups – 2016/17**

During 2016/17 the Committee also made appointments to the following ISGs:

- Performance Management ISG
- Review of Scrutiny ISG
- Housing Delivery/Impact of the Housing Bill ISG
- Councillor Workloads ISG

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.

During 2016/17 there was no 12 month review of progress on the recommendations of the ISGs due to there being no adequate update at that time. However this is programmed in the work programme for 2017/18 for consideration at the meeting on 22 January 2018:

A report setting out the recommendations of the Performance Monitoring ISG is due to be considered by the Committee at its meeting on 11 September 2017.

### **(iii) Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees – 2016/17**

During 2016/17 the Committee established and made appointments to the following Sub-Committee:

- Overview and Scrutiny (Major Projects) Sub-Committee

The purpose of this Sub-Committee is to review the large number of projects the Council were pursuing at present, including the development of Station Approach and Silver Hill and to scrutinise in depth the process of the major projects at their key stages to ensure the projects were adhering to the correct process with adequate monitoring mechanisms in place.

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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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