



# Annual Scrutiny Report

## 2017/18



## **DRAFT Winchester City Council Annual Scrutiny Report 2017/18**

### **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. 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 takes a lead role in developing the Capital Programme, General Fund Budget and Council Strategy.

In 2017/18, the Committee has moved from a post scrutiny way of working – looking at issues after Cabinet has made decisions, to a pre scrutiny one – with feedback to Cabinet before decision, giving the chance for revisions to be made. This change has led to increased opportunities for both back bench members and members of the public to influence significant decisions and policies. Major Council projects looked at in this way have included Central Winchester Regeneration and the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park Project and strategies have included the Housing Strategy and the overarching Council Strategy..

The Committee welcomes and encourages engagement with residents and other community representatives during its public participation session. During 2017/18, local residents commented on numerous matters including the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park Project and the Central Winchester Draft Supplementary Planning Document

Although the Informal Scrutiny Groups that previously reviewed the scrutiny process have been overtaken by the wider review of the Council, lessons learned are being used to improve the effectiveness of the Scrutiny processes within the Council. Looking forward, the revised constitution is expected to enhance the scrutiny function and member involvement in the process; it is also to be hoped that ways of scrutinising other than the traditional committee meeting will be further explored.

With the continuing pressure on the Council to do more with less, it is vital that Scrutiny continues to play its' part in ensuring that major projects are delivered efficiently and with maximum benefit to residents while at the same time collecting bins, controlling parking, looking after open spaces and the myriad of other Council roles which help make our district a great place to live don't get forgotten.

**Cllr Kelsie Learney - The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman 2017/18**

## 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 taken to 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 – 2017/18

**Chairman: Cllr Kelsie Learney**

### (i) Holding Portfolio Holders to account

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

- Risk Management Policy 2017 (CAB2922 refers)
- General Fund Outturn 2016/17 (OS166 refers)
- Portfolio Plans Outturn 2016/17 (OS165 refers)
- Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2016/17 and Key Performance Indicators (OS167 refers)
- Treasury Management Outturn 2016/17 (OS168 refers)
- Draft Housing Strategy (OS169 refers)
- Q1 Financial and Performance Monitoring Report (OS171 refers)
- Community Infrastructure Levy – Rolling 3 year programme of Schemes (OS172 refers)
- Medium Term Financial Plan (OS174 refers)
- Annual Report: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (OS175 refers)
- Winchester Sport and Leisure Park Project – Consideration of Stage 2 Proposals (OS177 refers) (Less exempt appendices)
- Winchester Sport and Leisure Park Project – Procurement (OS179 refers)
- Winchester Sport and Leisure Park Project – Outline Business Case and Partnership (OS186 refers) (Less exempt appendices)
- Q2 Financial and Performance Monitoring (OS183 refers)
- Outcome Based Budgeting (OS184 refers)
- Performance Management ISG Recommendations (OS176 refers)
- Members' Allowances – Report of Independent Remuneration Panel (OS185 refers)

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- Approval of Central Winchester Draft Supplementary Planning Document (OS173 refers)
- Council Strategy Update (OS180 refers)
- Community Safety Partnership Performance Review (OS178 refers)
- Medium Term Financial Strategy (OS189 refers)
- General Fund Budget 2018/19 (OS188 refers)
- Treasury Management Strategy (OS190 refers)
- Housing Revenue Account Budget 2018/19 and Business Plan 2018/2048 (OS192 refers)
- Capital Strategy (OS191 refers)
- Q3 Financial and Performance Monitoring (OS193 refers)
- Asset Management Plan Update (presentation)
- Annual Emergency Planning Report (OS194 refers)
- Environmental Services Contract Update (OS196 refers) (less exempt appendices)

### (ii) Informal Scrutiny Groups – 2017/18

During 2017/18 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

A report setting out the recommendations of the Performance Monitoring ISG was considered by the Committee at its meeting on 27 November 2017.

### (iii) Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committees – 2017/18

During 2016/17 the Committee established the following Sub-Committee. This was re-appointed during 2017/18:

- Overview and Scrutiny (Major Projects) Sub-Committee

The purpose of this Sub-Committee was 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. This Sub-Committee was not formally convened as opportunities for the pre scrutiny of several aspects of the Council's major projects have taken place to the satisfaction of the Chairman

An archive of all the previous in-depth scrutiny reviews undertaken by ISGs is accessible via the Council's website .

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