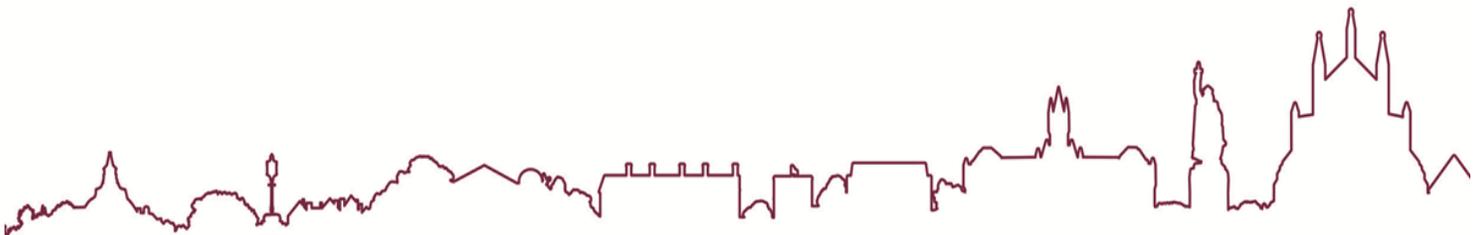




Annual Scrutiny Report

2018/19



DRAFT Winchester City Council Annual Scrutiny Report 2018/19

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 was 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 2018/19, the Committee progressed with a pre scrutiny way of working – with feedback to Cabinet before decision, giving the chance for revisions to be made. Having moved from a post scrutiny way of working, pre scrutiny provided 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 Station Approach 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 2018/19, local residents commented on numerous matters including the Winchester Sport and Leisure Park Project, Station Approach and the Winchester Movement Strategy.

Following a comprehensive review of the Council's constitution, a new scrutiny regime has been adopted by the Council which enhances the scrutiny function and member involvement in processes. The Scrutiny Committee, as it is now named, will predominantly feature retrospective matters for scrutiny, whilst the two supporting newly established Policy Committees, The Business and Housing Policy Committee and the Health and Environment Policy Committee, will predominately focus on a forward looking approach for policy development.

With the continuing pressure on the Council's resources, it is vital that Scrutiny and its newly established Policy Committees continue to play their part in ensuring that projects are delivered efficiently and with maximum benefit to residents while ensuring that the Council's key services to the public such as refuse, parking, open spaces and the myriad of other Council roles which help make our District a great place to live, continue to be delivered at a high standard.

Cllr Kelsie Learney – The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman for 2018/19

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 Scrutiny Committee.

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

THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2018/19

Chairman: Cllr Kelsie Learney

Holding Portfolio Holders to account

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

- Leisure Centre Construction Costs (Presentation)
- Central Winchester Regeneration – Adoption of Supplementary Planning Document (OS197 refers)
- Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2017/18 (OS203 refers)
- Q4 Financial and Performance Monitoring (OS204 refers)
- Treasury Management Outturn 2017/18 (OS205 refers)
- Medium Term Financial Challenge (OS206 refers)
- Community Infrastructure Levy Operational Review (OS208 refers)
- Q1 Financial and Performance Monitoring (OS207 refers)
- Environmental Services Contract Decision Making (Exempt Report) (CAB3044 refers)
- Community and Voluntary Sector Grants Review (OS210 refers)
- Annual Report: Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman 2017/18 (OS209 refers)
- Housing Revenue Account Budget Options 2019/20 ((OS214 refers)
- Q2 Financial and Performance Monitoring (OS212 refers)
- Council Strategy Update (OS213 refers)
- Medium Term Financial Plan (OS211 refers)
- Station Approach Update (Presentation)
- Environmental Services Kerbside Glass Collection and Contract Strategy (Less exempt appendices) (CAB3108 refers)

DRAFT Winchester City Council Annual Scrutiny Report 2018/19

- Medium Term Financial Strategy (OS217 refers)
- General Fund Budget (OS218 refers)
- Housing Revenue Account 2019/20 and Business Plan 2019/2049 (OS219 refers)
- Q3 Financial and Performance Monitoring (OS216 refers)
- Asset Management Plan 2016/2021 (OS223 refers)
- Annual Emergency Planning Report (OS222 refers)
- Community Safety Partnership Performance Review (OS215 refers)
- Station Approach Outline Business Case and Associated Matters (Less exempt appendices) (OS225 refers)
- City of Winchester Movement Strategy (CAB3140 refers)
- Establishing the Winchester Housing Company (Less exempt appendices (OS226 refers)

Presentations to the Committee

To assist with its detailed scrutiny of specific matters and to help facilitate discussion, during the previous year there were several presentations to the Committee. These included on the Council's new Sports and Leisure Park, Station Approach, Emergency Planning and the Winchester Movement Strategy. The Committee also considered the work of the Council's Community Safety Partnership further to the requirements of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009