

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL  
COUNCIL – 22 MAY 2017  
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PUBLIC PROTECTION,  
PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE)

SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT  
2016/2017 AND WORK PROGRAMME 2017/2018 – REPORT IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 6.3(C) OF THE CONSTITUTION

FUNCTIONS AND ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The main functions of the Committee relate to the conduct of comprehensive reviews and the scrutiny of the Council's policies, strategies or operations relating to statutory working, for example community safety, health and community plan, leisure and community services, housing landlord and housing strategic services.

The Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee also, in accordance with the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, scrutinises crime and disorder by reviewing and scrutinising decisions made or other action taken in the discharge of crime and disorder functions by the Community Safety Partnership under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended.

Additional items for the work programme can be generated by the Councillor Call for Action. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the Police and Justice Act 2006 both contain new powers for Members to help them tackle local problems on behalf of their constituents.

Councillors have the ability to call for debate and discussion at Committee on a topic of neighbourhood concern and this is known as "Councillor Call for Action" (CCfA).

All Overview and Scrutiny Committees have a standing item on the Agenda for any Councillor Call for Action items. No issues have been discussed under this heading during 2016/2017.

Under Article 6.3(c) of the Constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Committees must report annually to the Council on their workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate. This report is in accordance with that requirement.

## WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee met five times during the municipal year 2016/2017 and has dealt with a range of issues.

Issues that have been considered by the Committee include the following:

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>MEETING</b>	<b>MINUTE</b>
Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime Strategy	7 September 2016	24
Community Safety Partnership Annual Report	16 November 2016	36
Dementia Action Alliance	11 January 2017	47
Health Working Group – Appointments	9 June 2016	14
Health Working Group – Update	11 January 2017	48
Museum Service Annual Report	14 March 2017	58
Older Persons Housing Strategy	16 November 2016	39
Public Health Projects	11 January 2017	46
Re-integration of the Housing Trust	16 November 2016	40
Safeguarding – Annual Report	14 March 2017	61
Strategic Housing Update	16 November 2016	38
Strategic Transformation Plan	11 January 2017	45
Town Centres Progress Report	14 March 2017	59
Welfare Benefit Reform	16 November 2016	37
Youth and Sports Partnership Annual Report	14 March 2017	60

Of particular note were the following points:

- A third-party Reporting Centre was to be provided at the Council offices so that people had a safe environment where they could report issues such as domestic violence or hate crimes.
- There had been a significant reduction in the number of children on protection plans and 6% reduction in children in care.

- Changes had been made by the Police and Crime Commissioner in the way that funding was allocated for Community Safety and there was no guarantee of funding in the future.
- Legislation was likely to change which would mean that more properties fell into the category of Houses of Multiple Occupation.
- The cost of membership of Hatfield Leisure Centre had been reduced by 25% to £29.
- The Business Improvement District company was to start work on 1 April 2017.
- The Lead Officer for Safeguarding would change from the Community Partnerships Manager to the Head of Community Development.

#### Finesse Leisure Monitoring

(Minutes 9, 22, 34 and 56 refer)

Members received performance information on the facilities managed by Finesse Leisure.

#### Performance Indicators

(Minutes 10, 23, 35 and 57 refer)

Members received performance information on the services within its remit.

The number of performance indicators presented to this Committee had increased due to the inclusion of several for Campus West and for the Housing service and it had therefore been decided that, whilst all the data would be presented to the Committee, discussions would be held on an exception basis and focus on any indicators that had been missed or those that had exceeded target. This gave Members more time to concentrate on matters that were of concern.

### PRESENTATIONS

At each meeting attended by Finesse, they provided a Powerpoint presentation about elements of their business such as Panshanger Golf Complex, Hatfield Swim Centre and Hatfield Leisure Centre.

Jacqui Bunce, Associate Director (Strategy) East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group made a presentation to the Committee in which she provided information on the health of residents of Welwyn Hatfield and on the Sustainable Transformation Plan and the impact of any changes on local residents.

As part of the scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership, presentations were given by Hertfordshire Police and Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service which provided details and statistics on crime, disorder and fires and information on projects undertaken by both services.

## ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

There were no scrutiny reviews requested by the Committee during the year.

However, as required by legislation, Members had scrutinised Crime and Disorder and the Community Safety Partnership. They also scrutinised Health in the Borough.

## WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme for the Committee will be set at the first meeting of the municipal year.

Members of the Committee can, during the course of the year, add items within the remit of the Committee that they feel should be considered and discussed.

Items within the remit of the Committee are shown in Part 3 of the Constitution.

## RECOMMENDATION

That this report on the working of the Committee, together with recommendations for the Committee's future work programme, in accordance with Article 6.3 (C) of the Constitution, be noted.

Nick Long  
Executive Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance)  
21 March 2017