

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 4 MARCH 2019
COUNCIL – 20 MAY 2019
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (PUBLIC PROTECTION,
PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE)

SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE SUMMARY REPORT
2019/2020 AND WORK PROGRAMME 2019/2020 – REPORT IN
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 6.3(C) OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. 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 the 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 2018/2019.

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.

2. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

The Council has appointed three Overview and Scrutiny Committees to discharge certain of its functions relating to policy review, policy development and the scrutiny of decision making.

The Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee covers statutory partnership working, for example, community safety, health and community plan, leisure and community services, crime and disorder and equalities, safeguarding housing and armed forces community covenant.

In accordance with the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, the Council's duties and powers under the Police and Justice Act 2006 for overview and scrutiny of crime and disorder will be undertaken by the Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This empowers the Committee to review or scrutinise 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 and to make reports or recommendations to the Council about those functions. For Welwyn Hatfield the responsible authorities steering the Community Safety Partnership are the Council, Hertfordshire County Council (including Fire and Rescue), East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group, Hertfordshire Constabulary and the Probation Trust covering Hertfordshire.

The Committee met five times during the municipal year 2018/2019 and has dealt with a range of issues and received a number of presentations from the Service Areas falling under its remit.

2.1. ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

One item for a scrutiny review on Anti-Social Behaviour was requested by the Committee in January 2019.

2.2. 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.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the report on the work of the Committee be noted.

Nick Long
Corporate Director (Public Protection, Planning and Governance)
?? May 2019