

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2019
COUNCIL – 20 MAY 2019
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PUBLIC PROTECTION, PLANNING
AND GOVERNANCE)

RESOURCES 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 accountancy, internal audit, information technology, E-Government, insurance, risk management, council tax, business rates, benefits administration, property services, human resources, health and safety, legal, committee management, elections, local land charges, corporate policy, corporate consultations and communication.

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 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 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 reports that have been considered by the Committee are as follows:

- a) Budget Monitoring – The Committee receives regular budget monitoring reports on the revenue and capital budgets from the Corporate Director

(Resources, Environment and Cultural Services) these presented key financial information on the position of the Council's budgets at periods 3, 6 and 9.

- b) Budget and Council Tax Setting Meeting – The meeting of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2019 was dedicated to the consideration of the proposed Budget and Council Tax setting reports of the Corporate Director (Resources, Environment and Cultural Services).
- c) Performance Monitoring – The Committee receives quarterly monitoring reports on the suite of performance indicators that fall within its remit. This enables the Committee to identify which of the Council's services are improving, not improving or remaining the same in their key performance areas.
- d) Sopra Steria Contract Monitoring – The Committee receives regular reports which provide Members with an analysis of the service performance for Sopra Steria against contractual key performance indicators and service level targets for benefits, council tax, business rates, Information Communication Technology (ICT), contact centre, reception and switchboard.

3. ITEMS FOR SCRUTINY

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are able to appoint Scrutiny Sub-Committees to undertake time limited focused scrutiny exercises on issues that they feel need particular attention. The recommendations from the Scrutiny Sub-Committees are referred to Cabinet.

4. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/2020

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.

5. RECOMMENDATION

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

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