

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

24 May 2016

Task Group update

Purpose

To provide an update on recent task group activity and propose any decisions requiring Committee approval.

1. Financial Planning Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Glenis Ansell (Chairman)

Cllr George Jeans

Cllr Pip Ridout

Cllr Ian Thorn

Cllr Roy While

Supporting officer: Henry Powell

Terms of Reference:

1. To understand and review the Medium Term Financial Strategy (4 year financial model).
2. To understand and review the approach and robustness of the financial planning regime within the Council.
3. To understand and help develop the approach to the annual budget setting cycle.
4. To review the specific contribution of overview and scrutiny in the annual budget setting cycle with a focus on outcomes.
5. To undertake periodic budget monitoring including reviews of key midyear trends and developments and to ensure that these are taken into account when updating the Financial Plan.
6. To work under the direction and guidance of the Management Committee and report regularly to the Cabinet Member, Management Committee and select committees (as appropriate) on its work and findings and to make any necessary referrals.

Recent activity:

The task group met on 26 April 2016 and discussed the following topics:

- **Review of the budget scrutiny process 2015/16** – a separate report is included elsewhere on the agenda
- **Budget 2015/16 update** – the ledger is now being closed down and a balanced 2015/16 budget is still anticipated
- **Verbal briefing on School Loans** – this will be reported in an item to Cabinet on 17 May.
- **Performance Management and Risk Outturn Report: Q3 2015/16** – the task group congratulated officers on a clear and much improved method of report performance
- **Adult Social Care Operations budget 2016/17** - a detailed look at the development of this budget including the allocation of funds collected through the Social Care Levy.

The task group's next meeting will take place on 9 June 2016 and will include consideration of:

- Budget 2015/16 final outturn report
- Revenue budget monitoring
- Capital budget monitoring

2. **Military-Civilian Integration Task Group**

Membership:

Cllr Richard Britton
Cllr Mollie Groom
Cllr Alan Hill (Chairman)
Cllr Gordon King
Cllr Bill Moss

Supporting Officer: Toby Eliot

Terms of Reference:

1. To identify any risks and opportunities presented by the MCIP that are relevant to Wiltshire Council services and priorities, focusing on the following themes:
 - Housing
 - Health
 - Infrastructure
 - Budget
 - Schools
 - Employment (leavers and dependents)

2. To make workable recommendations on how any identified risks could be mitigated and opportunities exploited to support delivery of the MCIP and of relevant priorities within the Council's Business Plan.

Recent activity:

There are no recent updates to provide.

3. Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership Joint Task Group

Membership:

Cllr Christine Crisp

Cllr Alan Hill (Chairman)

Cllr Mark Packard

Supporting Officer: Marie Gondlach

Terms of reference:

1. Develop an overview and scrutiny framework and operational protocols which meet the requirements of democratic accountability for the use of public funds by a partnership body which is led by the business community under a mandate from the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.
2. Whilst developing the framework, the Task Group will carry out trial activities to scrutinise the outcomes and work of the SWLEP. In fulfilling this role the task group will:-
 - a. Perform all overview and scrutiny functions on behalf of both Councils in respect of the SWLEP and JSEC
 - b. Appoint such sub-groups as it consider appropriate to fulfil those functions.
 - c. Review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge or any of the SWLEP and JSEC functions.
 - d. Make reports and recommendations to the Councils relevant partner in connection with the discharge of any functions.
 - e. Approve a forward work programme, including the programme of any sub-groups it appoints so as to ensure that the Task Group and sub-groups' time is effectively and efficiently utilised.
 - f. Foster and encourage an inclusive, structured, non-partisan and non-adversarial approach to overview and scrutiny which is reliant on evidence rather than anecdote.

Recent activity:

At its meeting on 12 April the task group scrutinised board membership, recruitment and succession planning by comparing information from other LEPs to benchmark the Swindon and Wiltshire LEP.

Based on the information available the task group was satisfied that, at this point in time, the LEP was set up in a way that was suitable for Swindon and Wiltshire.

At its next meeting the task group will scrutinise the processes the LEP follows for projects, from selection to gaining funding and the monitoring through delivery and assessing of these projects upon completion.

Proposals

To note the update on task group activity provided.

Report author: Henry Powell, Senior Scrutiny Officer, Toby Eliot, Corporate Support Manager, and Marie Gondlach, Senior Scrutiny Officer