Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

6 September 2016

**Outcomes from the Annual Work Planning Meetings
Between OS Chairs/Vice-chairs with the Executive and Directors**

Purpose

1. To report outcomes from the annual meetings between Overview and Scrutiny (OS) chairmen and vice-chairmen and the relevant executive members and directors. These took place during June and were to discuss key council priorities and projects over the next 12 months and how OS might add value to the them through providing constructive challenge and support.

Background

2. Annual meetings between leading OS members, their executive counterparts and the relevant directors have been taking place for several years and are now established as an important forum for ensuring the OS single work programme reflects the key corporate priorities of the council.

3. The LGA peer challenge of OS undertaken in 2015 noted the good relationships between the Executive and OS and recommended that this be developed further through such regular timetabled meetings.

4. In these meetings, the Cabinet Member, Portfolio Holder and Director(s) are invited to advise on service priorities, developments, challenges and risks anticipated over the next 12 months. Attendees then,

   - Discuss whether OS could add value by including the topic on its forward work programme;
   - Give initial consideration to the most appropriate form of OS engagement;
   - Give consideration to appropriate timing for OS engagement.

5. Attendees also discussed wider topics such as OS member learning and development and approaches to evidence gathering.

Main considerations

6. The table below provides a summary of the outcomes of this year's round of meetings. Where topics were agreed as benefiting from OS engagement these are already reflected in the OS forward work programme, while others require further discussion.

	OS Management Committee
1.	**Campus programme** To consider receiving a county-wide update on the delivery of the campus programme, timing to be confirmed.
2.	**Councillor Induction 2017** Agreement that the new councillor induction programme in 2017 emphasises the importance of members' area board role. OS to consider new approaches of training councillors within its legacy report. (This report is scheduled for April 2017).
3.	**Using customer feedback data** OS possibly to use the data available from customer services, the app and complaints to measure customer satisfaction / identify trends / issues in the service areas covered by the committees
4.	**OS representation on project boards** To investigate ways of encouraging ensuring "structured" and consistent feedback to committees from OS representatives on project boards.
5.	**Planning service** Contributing to a review of planning to determine the optimal number of planning committees to ensure that all democratic aspects have been taken into account for the redesign.
	Environment Select Committee
6.	**Investment Team** Evidence based review of what the function should be and the optimal size of the team
7.	**Fleet maintenance** To contribute to the operating model design and explore the viability of including partners.
8.	**Depot strategy** To receive information on the work already started by officers.
9.	**Update on contracts implementation for Highways Service** NB. Other reports already planned may cover this topic.
10.	**Housing Strategy – final draft** To review the proposed strategy before it is presented to Cabinet
	Children's Select Committee
11.	**DfE White Paper: Educational Excellence Everywhere** Future school improvement and educational transformation work was

	highlighted as a priority area in the new year. The work would follow from the guidelines set out in the white paper. A new task group following the work of the School Improvement Strategy task group was suggested as a possible form of input from scrutiny. It was suggested that the Committee could propose nominating a representative from the Committee to the Education Transformation Board. The representative would bring back key areas for discussion to the Committee and report back to the Board.
12.	**Availability of Nursery Places** A report could be brought to the Committee in early 2017 to address any potential concerns and assure members that enough nursery places were available to meet demand.
13.	**Children's Case Management System** Work in this area was progressing and a key update would be delivered to the Committee at this July meeting.
14.	**SEND/Transport/ Passenger Assistance** SEND transport assistance for schools was noted as a wide area for consideration. Scrutiny input was welcomed to help improve the service in the light of budgetary restrictions. Due to the wide reach of the area a report was offered for the Committee to provide an initial introduction, along with a summary of the SEND strategy for schools.
15.	**Adoptions West** A possible joint scrutiny project was referenced as a possible form of input from scrutiny teams across the joint area. A paragraph was included in the Adoptions West report included as a part of the agenda for 19th July Children's Select Committee meeting which references this possibility.
16.	**Children's Services Integration Project** The project which integrates with Early Help was not expected to reach implementation until early 2017. Prior to the implementation no input from scrutiny was anticipated as necessary. Following the implementation scrutiny input was welcomed to assist in the steering and future of the project.
17.	**Bullying** Bullying would be considered part of the wider picture for the Child and Adolescent Mental Health task group's work. The scope would include bullying and PSHE. A pre-meeting information briefing for the Committee would be received in October regarding CAMHS titled "On Your Mind".
	Health Select Committee

18.	**Housing suitable for older people** Explore the possibility of planning committees defining the breakdown of affordable housing within a development, rather than just the total number.
19.	**Dementia Friends initiative** To receive a pre-meeting information briefing and update on this, focusing on next steps for the project.
20.	**Older People's Champions** To receive an item in November to consider progress during the first year of OPC's work. To cover: Is there a strategic plan? What outcomes are they delivering? What challenges are we facing? How is learning being shared? How is information being disseminated?
21.	**Single View** As a starting point, the chairman and vice-chairman to receive a briefing from the project manager .
22.	**Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)** To continue monitoring of the STP's development.

Proposal

7. To note the outcomes from the 2016 meetings between OS chairmen and vice-chairmen and the relevant executive members and directors, with further investigation and discussion by select committees ongoing in some areas.

8. To endorse the annual meetings as a valuable forum for ensuring the OS work programme reflects the key priorities of the council, with this being reflected in a legacy report to be considered by Committee in April 2017.

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Appendices

None.