

## **Review of the work of the Environment Select Committee**

### **Purpose**

1. To highlight key aspects of the work undertaken by the Select Committee during recent times and to recommend topics as legacy items to the Management Committee for possible inclusion in a new overview and scrutiny work programme after the elections.

### **Background**

2. An opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny (OS) to look back on its activity during the outgoing council has become a standing fixture in its learning and improvement journey. This 'legacy process' complements other opportunities for reflection, such as OS Member training workshops, annual meetings with officers and executive members to discuss work priorities (as well as regular informal dialogue between the two) and the LGA Peer Review of OS undertaken in 2015.
3. The legacy process allows members to consider OS's successes and challenges during the past four years, including the key scrutiny reviews and their impact on the council's agreed priorities. With the benefit of this experience it can then submit suggestions for OS under the 2017-21 council to consider to maximise the impact of the work it will undertake.
4. OS Management Committee has agreed the following legacy process for the 2013-17 council:
  - 1) **OS Legacy Workshop** (17 January 2017)  
A learning and development event where executive and OS members undertook a high-level review of OS's successes and challenges this council. The outcomes from this will be reported to the Management Committee in March.
  - 2) **Select Committee 'end of term' reports** (February / March)  
The report below highlights successful past pieces of work by Environment Select Committee and provides the opportunity to

recommend ongoing pieces of work for possible inclusion in the OS work programme of the new council.

3) **OS Management Committee considers the OS Legacy report 2013-17** (14 March 2017)

An overarching report presenting the outcomes from the Legacy Workshop in January and each select committees' suggestions of priority topics under the next council. Management Committee will then agree a report for submission to the new council to be considered at Management Committee's first meeting (6 June 2017).

**Key Activities and Achievements**

5. The following is a list of some of the Environment Select Committee's key past activities and achievements which demonstrates the contribution it has made to decision-making, policy development and good governance of the Council:

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Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
<b>Task Groups, Rapid Scrutiny Exercises and other ad hoc exercises</b>			
<b>Task Groups:</b>			
<a href="#">Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group</a>	August 2012 – December 2014	The Task Group were asked to test out the charging proposals for CIL, and receive updates on the implementation of CIL.	<p>Post-2013 reported that it had reviewed the proposed operational flowchart and was satisfied the proposed administration of the CIL was well advanced and addressed most of the previous issues raised.</p> <p>Supported the executive in establishing a viable rate for CIL to support development. Using planning powers to maintain the vitality of market towns and local high streets.</p>
<a href="#">Waste Task Group</a>	May 2013 – December 2013	Established to provide scrutiny input on future options for the service delivery for waste and recycling collection and management prior to the contract coming to an end in 2016.	Provided recommendations which were considered in the report to Cabinet on the delivery of the waste services. Issues raised were incorporated in Briefing Note 168 – “Future Delivery of Waste Services in Wiltshire – update”.
<a href="#">Adoptable Estates Task Group</a>	May 2013 – December 2014	Established based on concerns over the conditions attached to planning approvals being open to abuse or ignored to the detriment of council activity, owner-occupiers and tenants.	Examined regulations and contractual arrangements, and reviewed timings and protocols for adoption. Also, reviewed other authority’s success in development adoptions and their

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
			protocols to identify improvements for Wiltshire's process.
<a href="#">20mph Policy Task Group</a>	December 2013 – December 2014	To review the 20mph policy as it was enacted in terms of whether it would enable the delivery of reduced numbers of casualties and increased general road safety.	Recommended greater community involvement in schemes, fundraising, and safety initiatives. Including CATG's and Area Boards.
<a href="#">Car Parking Review Task Group</a>	February 2014 – February 2015	Established to provide an advisory and support role to the team undertaking the car parking review as well as providing a member from the task group to sit on the Project Board.	Considered and review consultation responses and proposals to Cabinet prior to their meeting.
<a href="#">Public Transport Review</a>	June 2015 – September 2016	To investigate the strategic savings of £0.5m to result from a complete review and transformation of public transport in the county in the 2015/16 budget.	Appointed a representative to the Public Transport Review Board.  Provided feedback on data collected from the consultation.
<a href="#">Resident Engagement Task Group</a>	November 2015 – April 2016	Set up to provide input in a review of housing management services' approach to resident participation and their own scrutiny arrangements.	Provided feedback on Wiltshire's approach to resident engagement following meetings with three other key housing providers in Wiltshire.
<a href="#">Waste Service Changes Task Group</a>	November 2015 – September 2016	On 27 October 2015, the Environment Select Committee asked the Waste Group Task Group to investigate the impact of reduced Household Recycling Centres' hours and traffic management issues and to investigate the impact of the new green waste collection service particularly in relation to fly-tipping.	Provided recommendations on functionality of HRC's (following revised opening hours), the promotion of green waste collection, and addressing fly-tipping.
<b>Rapid Scrutiny Exercises:</b>			
<a href="#">Future Delivery Model for the Repairs, Improvements and</a>	September 2015	Wiltshire Council's Housing team had reviewed the way in which its contracts were structured and delivered through a comprehensive review of the	Provided recommendations on: contractors, apprenticeship

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief Explanation</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<a href="#">Maintenance of Council Owned Assets</a>		service considering all the delivery models in the housing sector.	schemes, adequate ICT, communication with tenants.
<a href="#">Re-Commissioning of Housing Service Support Contracts</a>	February 2017	Invited to provide input on a review of all housing related support contracts with a view to re-commissioning Housing Service Support contracts.	Recommended that a task group be set up to provide input on what the new service will look like.
<b>Select Committee agenda items</b>			
<a href="#">Flood Plan</a>	Regular updates 2013-2016	Received updates relating to the 2013 review of the plan and further reviews following the review and response to flooding in Wiltshire.	Was satisfied that there were well coordinated arrangements for and responses to flooding and winter weather.
<a href="#">Green Infrastructure Strategy</a>	October 2013	The Wiltshire Core Strategy includes Core Policy 52, which places a requirement for all development to protect and enhance local green infrastructure (GI) networks	Endorsed the strategy and encouraged Area Boards to consider potential Green Infrastructure projects for local plans that will be influenced by the strategic level Green Infrastructure strategy.
<a href="#">Gypsy and Traveller Plan</a>	Regular updates 2014-2017	Received updates on work undertaken, the current situation, and future work.	Updates assured progress on planning policies for sites, and the progress of the plan.
<a href="#">Wiltshire Core Strategy</a>	February 2015	Were advised on the development of Neighbourhood Plans across Wiltshire and the Core Strategy.	Committee were assured on the delivery of the core strategy.
<a href="#">Award of New Highways Contract</a>	January 2016	The Committee received the confidential report on the new highways contract award along with a presentation on the key aspects.	Accepted the recommendations of officers to Cabinet.  Recommended the Highways and Street Scene Task Group should continue and monitor the implementation of the new contract (including reviewing KPIs).

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Outcome
<a href="#">Leisure Services</a>	April 2016 & February 2017	Reports from Leisure on implementing their vision of “Helping people in Wiltshire to live longer, healthier lives, while addressing health inequalities”	Requested and received statistics on the number of individuals participating in leisure activities within Wiltshire and updates on progression.
<a href="#">Library Services</a>	April 2016 & February 2017	Received report detailing review of Library Services (mobile library services in 2015) and follow-up report on the progress of the success and progress of the new library model.	Updated on the success and progress of the new Calne Library model, including a breakdown of usage for each library in Wiltshire.

### Ongoing work

6. The following is a list of activities and reviews which the Select Committee considers important to include as ongoing pieces of work in any new overview and scrutiny work programme. Every effort has been made to bring reviews to a conclusion in time for the end of the current Council but clearly some things remain ongoing due to the significance or long-term nature of the topic.

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Reason for Inclusion
<b>Task Groups</b>			
<b>Highways and Street Scene Task Group</b>	20 June 2017	Focus on the implementation of the new contract, including the proposed KPI's, performance framework, and monitoring the new contract.	To receive the final report and subsequent executive response.
<b>Select Committee items</b>			
<a href="#">Playing Pitch Strategy</a>	Annual	Reports to be provided from the Wiltshire Playing Pitch Strategy Implementation Group to Environment Select Committee regarding the strategy's development.	To ensure that there is adequate provision of

Activity	Date	Brief Explanation	Reason for Inclusion
			playing pitches within Wiltshire.
<b>Wiltshire Council Resident Engagement Strategy</b>	20 June 2017	For the Committee to receive an updated report on the progress of the Council's resident engagement strategy provided	To continue ensuring that the Resident Engagement Strategy is effective following activity by the task group.
<b>Enforcement update</b>	20 June 2017	Information following a reduction in numbers of enforcement officers.	To receive assurance on quality of service delivery following the reduction in officers.
<b>Business Plan</b>	TBC	A chance to review any changes of impact on the areas of the business covered by the Environment Select Committee (no date set for Cabinet yet).	To ensure that the work of the committee is lined up to the Business Plan.
<a href="#">Municipal Waste Management Strategy</a>	TBC	Committee received an updated version of the strategy in October 2016. It was noted that this was due to be updated over the course of 2017.	To consider areas of scrutiny involvement in the updated strategy's development.
<b>Planning</b>	TBC		To consider possible areas of scrutiny involvement.

7. In considering which areas to recommend for future work, the Committee is asked to be mindful that the Management Committee will need to leave space and capacity for those leading the function after the election to develop their own work programme based on issues resulting from public views expressed during the election period and following early engagement with any new Executive.

### **Next Steps**

8. The Management Committee meets on 14 March 2017 and will receive the reports from the three select committees. It will also consider a similar report based on its activities primarily in the corporate arena. The members of the Management Committee will give their views on what should be included in a final legacy report which will be written by Scrutiny officers in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Following the elections this will then be made available to the new Management Committee, appointed by Council on 16 May 2017, at its first meeting scheduled for 6 June 2017.

### **Recommendations**

9. To agree which topics to recommend to the Management Committee as requiring further work in the new Council, including reasons.
10. To note the next steps described in paragraph 8.

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