

Wiltshire Council

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

27 November 2024

Urgent items: Referral to OS Management Committee from Cllr Jon Hubbard

Purpose

1. To present a referral from Cllr Jon Hubbard to OS Management Committee under Part 8, paragraph 6.13 of the council's Constitution, and an officer response to the issues raised.

Main considerations

2. Part 8 the Constitution states the following:

"6.13 Any Member of the Council may inform the Designated Scrutiny Officer (as defined at Article 12 Para 4 of Part 2 of the Constitution) that they wish to refer to an Overview and Scrutiny Committee any matter which is relevant to the functions of that committee and is not an excluded matter (Overview and Scrutiny (Reference by Councillors) (Excluded Matters) (England) Order 2012).

3. On 20 November 2024, such a referral was received from Cllr Jon Hubbard regarding the council's engagement with Wiltshire Publications. This referral for action by OS Management Committee is attached at **Appendix 1**.
4. Under Part 8 (see below), such a request is normally included on the agenda of the next ordinary meeting of the relevant committee. In this case, the referral was received one day after publication of the agenda for the Committee's meeting on 27 November 2024. As the next available meeting is not until 28 January 2024, the Chair proposes to deal with the referral as an Urgent Item at the meeting on 27 November 2024.

5. Part 8 requires that the matter be dealt with in the following way:

"6.14 Following such notice, the item will be listed on the agenda at the next ordinary meeting of the appropriate committee as a referred matter. The Member referring the matter will be invited to attend the meeting and set out what Overview and Scrutiny activity or action they consider would be appropriate. The Committee will then determine what if any action should be taken in response to the discussion. If the Committee considers that no further work or action is appropriate the matter should not be debated further, and they will provide reasons to the requesting Member."

6. To support the Committee's deliberations, and at the Chair's request, a written response to the questions raised by Cllr Hubbard is provided at **Appendix 2**.
7. For context, a public statement on the matter was released by the Council, which is provided at **Appendix 3**.

Proposal

8. The Committee is asked to consider the referral from Cllr Jon Hubbard in accordance with Part 8, paragraph 6.14, of the council's Constitution.
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Appendices

Appendix 1	Referral from Cllr Hubbard to OS Management Committee
Appendix 2	Officer response to the questions raised in the referral
Appendix 3	Public statement issued by the council