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| TITLE | Update Reports from Chairman or Nominated Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committees |
| FOR CONSIDERATION BY | Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 13 October 2014 |
| WARD | None Specific |
| DIRECTOR | Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services |

Report of the Community Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on Monday 1st September when it received an update on the Armed Forces Community Covenant and considered the review of Amenity Vehicle Provision. The Committee also considered how it would approach its review of Outside Body appointments.

The Wokingham Borough Armed Forces Community Covenant was signed in July 2013 but it was noted that progress on the Action Plan had not happened as speedily as was originally intended. The Committee observed that the need to support the Armed Forces Community will remain: while REME will move from Arborfield to the Lyneham airfield site near Royal Wootton Bassett at the end of next year, the MoD will retain the 500 or so married quarters in Arborfield. Consequently, there will be a significant number of military personnel and their families living in the centre of the new Arborfield Garrison SDL without the support currently afforded by the existing Garrison system.

In its consideration of the Amenity Vehicle Provision (which is a mobile waste disposal service provided in some wards) we received a briefing from Peter Bayeystock. The Committee requested further information so that this could be examined at its next meeting. As this Amenity Vehicle Provision is a potential budget saving it was requested that the Committee's next meeting should be brought forward and it has now been re-arranged for Monday 27th October.

The Committee considered how it would approach its review of Outside Body appointments with members on Outside Bodies somewhat surprised to hear that Democratic Services maintained a Directory of Outside Bodies that runs to 72 pages. We noted that this Directory notes that there is no absolute definition of an Outside Body and we will examine any potential overlap between 'Other Bodies' who are not required to report annually to Council and 'Outside Bodies' who are (but not all appointees did so.) As many appointments were to Outside Bodies where the Council either pays a subscription or a grant, the Committee requested information as to how much was paid to each Outside Body. The Committee will then consider the appropriateness of continuing representation as well as the criteria for inclusion of a 'Body' where the Council is, or perhaps should be represented.

David Sleight

Chairman

19th September 2014

Update Report on the Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee Meeting

On 8 September 2014

During this meeting of the Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CSOSC) the following was debated:-

Planning Enforcement

- Several instances were highlighted where action was taken.
- 70% increase in funding.
- To involve towns and parishes and ask them what level of enforcement do they want?
- To involve Borough Ward Member.
- Work with Andrea Jenkins regarding publicity/press releases of Planning Enforcement to demonstrate Wokingham Borough Council is no soft touch and will take these instances extremely seriously.

Burial Review

- Received the annual update regarding Burial Review.
- To consider Children's Areas in the Borough's cemeteries.
- Net cost is £23,000 per annum.

The programme for the next meeting on 10 November 2014 to include the following:-

- Planning Enforcement – to consider the consultation on the local enforcement plan that will set out the Council's policy and procedure and look at any improvements.
- Review of the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme.
- Wokingham Borough Council – how it learns as an Organisation.
- Update on the combined elections in 2015.

Cllr. Michael Firmager

Vice-Chairman

Corporate Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

28 September 2014

Report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Committee met on 10 September. The agenda included the following:

- *Update on the Strategic Development Locations and Primary Care Facilities from Public Health and NHS England* – HOSC was informed of the implications for the provision of healthcare services, the anticipated future population growth would have. Health service workforce levels and recruitment are national issues. Members requested information regarding local primary care workforce levels, in order to identify particular areas where there are shortages or recruitment difficulties.
- *The final report of the Possible Implications for Scrutiny of the Francis Report Working Group* – The key implications for scrutiny from the Francis Report and any resulting areas of further development for health scrutiny in Wokingham were identified. All recommendations were agreed and are starting to be actioned e.g. the Chairmen of HOSC and the Health and Wellbeing Board will be meeting to discuss how the two Committees work together.
- *Wokingham Clinical Commissioning Group Performance Outcomes Report September 2014* – HOSC questioned why a number of targets such as Ambulance Response times had not been met.

The Committee's next meeting is 18 November. Agenda items will include:

- *An update on increased A&E attendance of Wokingham residents aged in their 40s-60s* – Representatives from the Royal Berkshire Hospital and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be invited to provide information on:
 - Perceived reasons for this increase;
 - The impact on A&E;
 - Action being taken to reduce the A&E attendance of Wokingham residents aged in their 40s-60s.
- *Update on RBH – (from CCG as commissioners)* – The CCG will be asked for their views on RBH, the main acute trust serving the Borough. Questions asked will include whether there are any areas where the CCG has concerns.
- The Safeguarding Service Manager has been invited to present the *Adult Safeguarding Annual Report* –HOSC will scrutinise achievement against aims identified.
- The Care Act Task and Finish Group will hopefully start its work in November.
- HOSC have agreed to have a briefing on effect of pollution on public health and wellbeing in Wokingham Borough at its January meeting, to determine whether this is an issue of concern in the Borough.

Councillor Kate Haines, Chairman of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of work of Children's Scrutiny Committee October 1st 2014

1. Recent issues addressed.

The annual report of the Safeguarding Children Board was examined. This last year there has been an increased awareness in relation to sexual abuse and exploitation, and a strong development of working with Partners, particularly schools, the Police and NHS. This has been encapsulated in the ground breaking work of the Family First team, who look at a whole family, not just the child him or herself, since so many children's problems come from troubled families as a whole; this team has seen a good deal of success, for example 91% of families significantly reduced or stopped their offending, 62% saw a marked improvement in attendance at school and 41% of these families had an adult entering employment, in many cases for the first time in three generations. The strengths of the Wokingham SCB are the strong partnership working, the fact that everyone who has a concern is taken seriously (unlike in Rotherham!), that this concern is investigated and triangulated, and action taken. Its work is underpinned by work taking place elsewhere in the Department, such as Listening to the Children's Voice and the development of the work with Foster carers, so there is a real joined up approach. For the next year, there are three overarching objectives: supporting children and families where they need it, keeping vulnerable children safe, and to develop a culture of learning and personal growth; work on these will take place under a new Chairman who has just picked up the reins, Frances Gosling-Thomas (from Improvement Support Partners), who has expressed the wish to make the measurables on these more robust. The Committee asked questions on the Report, particularly around the Rotherham situation to seek reassurance that Wokingham has a stronger position on this than Rotherham did.

School Performance

Provisional results were examined for all schools in Wokingham at all key stages; KS1 results have remained broadly the same, KS2 results rose across all subjects, GCSE results improved, notably in St. Crispin's, Waingels and Emmbrook ; A level improved slightly; children receiving free school meals also did better this year, and one looked after student out of the four entered gained 11 A* to C grades including Maths and English.

Ofsted Reports

These were examined for All Saints Primary (still requiring improvement although the Interim Head of Learning and Achievement said that the new Head had already made improvements and the Department is working with the school), Hillside (gone from Requiring Improvement to Good, where it was pointed out that Governors know

the school well), Robert Piggott (gone from Requiring Improvement to Good and the Inspectors commented that the LA had provided effective support to the school) and Keep Hatch Primary which had had a second visit following a poor inspection last year, and improvements were seen. The Committee were anxious to question how the LA was supporting the schools who need it.

Review Children's Social Care Services

A report was given of external and internal reviews of the Department initiated by Judith Ramsden and Felicity Budgen (Interim Head of Social Care and Intervention), and they consistently showed the need to improve the quality of analysis, the refining of the child protection planning process to make a greater impact, and a recruitment and retention policy to increase morale and stability of the workforce, and these form part of the Children's Social Care Improvement Plan. There were also a number of strengths such as clear management decisions, assistant team leaders having a firm grasp of all the issues, shorter assessment times, children spoken to clearly, and many staff seen to be going the extra mile.

Balanced Scorecard.

There is only one Red line: the percentage of referrals that are repeat referrals to Children's Social Care; the Department is examining every case from the last year to see why this is happening, and will bring a detailed report of their findings back to the Committee. There is one Amber, with 77% rather than 78% Primary Schools in the Borough being Good or better; 100% of Secondary schools are Good or better.

New Work for the Future

- (a) A task and finish group is being set up consisting of the whole committee to look at the future role of WBC as a provider of statutory school improvement services.
- (b) The Chairman also asked that there be a standing item on each meeting's agenda to review the Department's preparations for its next Ofsted inspection, with clear measurables.

This meeting was proceeded by one and a half hours of training, to bring new members up to speed with the work of Children's social care and education, and to update existing members on the changes that have happened since last year. This training is important if the whole committee is to understand the kind of questions they need to ask and areas they need to question. All permanent members of the committee and two of the four substitutes attended.