

Chairman's Report
Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 4 September 2017

The Committee met on 4 September 2017 and considered the following issues:

- **Strategic Review of Voluntary Sector Services (Place Commissioning) –** Members considered a report on the review of Voluntary and Community sector providers being undertaken by Place Commissioning. This mirrored the review previously reported to the Committee by the People Commissioning service.

The outcomes from the two reviews would be a move to a contract-based rather than a grants-based relationship between the Council and service providers. This would enable a greater focus on performance against agreed targets and clearer value for money. The three organisations funded by the Place service were Wokingham Job Support Club, Woodley Town Council (TCMI) and Earley Town Council (Help Shop).

Members welcomed the proposals but emphasised the importance of keeping Members informed about any changes involving service providers in their wards.

- **Highways and Transport Update –** An update report covered:
 - Highways Asset Management;
 - Measures to ensure quality and timeliness of roadworks;
 - Highways England Smart Motorway acoustic barriers;
 - M4/J10 improvement works.

The report also gave details of stakeholder workshops held to discuss the challenges and opportunities facing the service over the next 20 years. Members asked about the penalties available relating to roadworks which overran, the development of new performance indicators and communication with Members through the Highways for Members inbox.

Officers confirmed that a Member briefing on communications would be held later in the year. It was also agreed that Officers write to all Members setting out the process for raising issues including the operation of the Highways for Members inbox.

- **Cycle Lanes Update –** Members considered a report which gave details of progress on the introduction of cycle lanes and the ongoing work with the Borough's schools to promote cycle safety.

The report also gave details of performance monitoring and resident feedback relating to new cycleways including the Lower Earley Way Cycleway and the A329 corridor. Works on the final phase of the latter would be completed in 2018. Members noted that over 11,000 children had been trained over the past 9 years through the Council's Bikeability scheme.

Members asked about the collection of data for performance management of the new cycleways and the process for communicating with local Members, residents and road users. Members also asked about the benefits of cycling and walking in relation to air quality and health and wellbeing.

- **Work Programme** – the Committee confirmed its work programme for the next two meetings. The next meeting (6 November) would consider:
 - The Government's Right to Buy Policy;
 - Wokingham Town Centre Regeneration;
 - Unauthorised traveller encampments.

Shahid Younis

Chairman