



Council

14 December 2017

10.00am

Councillor Gwilym Butler
Place Overview Committee Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
PLACE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE
[INCORPORATING ENTERPRISE AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE]

1.0 Summary

1.1 This report is an overview of the work of the Place Overview Committee and its predecessor, the Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee. The report is a summary of the work undertaken by the Committee between January and December 2017.

2.0 Scrutiny activity in 2017

2.1 The Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee met formally on three occasions until July 2017 when following a review of the Council's scrutiny function, it was replaced by the Place Overview Committee, which first met in September 2017 and will meet again in December 2017. The following reports and presentations were received: -

- Outline of the Planning Review Methodology
- Draft Economic Growth Strategy
- Economic Growth Redesign Update
- Empty Homes Task and Finish Group Recommendations Implementation Update
- The North West Relief Road
- Business Rates

2.2 The development of the Economic Growth Strategy in the first half of the year was a key activity and the Committee has played an important role in informing this document. Committee Members were involved in the initial 'roundtable' consultations and have received updates on progress throughout the year which has given Members the opportunity to input to the final Strategy. The Committee will continue to play a role in the monitoring and review of delivery of the Strategy's actions.

- 2.3 In February 2017, the Committee received an update on the implementation of the Empty Homes Task and Finish Group Recommendations.
- 2.4 The Committee continues to work with Shropshire Business Board. The Board Chairman updated Members on their work in March 2017. In September, the Committee invited a representative from the Shropshire Business Board to join the discussion on the issue of Business rates.
- 2.5 In July 2017, following the Scrutiny Peer Review conducted by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Centre of Public Scrutiny (CFPS), and Council's subsequent approval of the Leader's proposed changes to the Scrutiny Committee remits and structures, the Committee considered an introduction to scrutiny, an overview of its key functional areas and key development areas.
- 2.4 The Committee approved the establishment of the Brexit Task and Finish Group at its September meeting. The Task and Finish Group was established to explore the potential impacts, positive and negative, of Brexit on the county and enable the Council to be able to respond effectively to any future Government consultations or proposals.
- 2.7 Infrastructure delivery is key for future economic growth and members heard from a number of key stakeholders at its September meeting in relation to the proposals for the North West Relief Road in Shrewsbury. This was part of the development of the outline business case for this project, ahead of submission to Government for further consideration.
- 2.8 At its meeting in December 2017 the Committee will consider the Apprenticeship Levy, Shrewsbury Town Centre Development and receive updates on Business Rates and the work of the Brexit Task and Finish Group.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Reports to Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee
 Reports to the Place Overview Committee

Cabinet Members

Councillors Steve Charmley, Nic Laurens, Robert Macey

Local Member/s

All

Appendices

None