



Committee and Date

Council

22 September 2016

10.00 am

Item

11

Public

**Councillor Vince Hunt
Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee Chairman**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016
ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

1.0 Summary

1.1 This is an overview of the work of the Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee during 2015-2016, alongside plans for the forthcoming year.

2.0 What have we done?

2.1 The Committee has met formally on six occasions over the last municipal year both in Shirehall and off-site and has considered a wide variety of issues.

2.2 During the year the Committee has received reports on the following subjects:

- The Provision of New Swimming Facilities in Shrewsbury. The report updated the committee on the work that was being undertaken, the consultation and next steps. Members from the Quarry Forum were also present who were able to ask a number of questions. Further reports will come back to the committee as this piece of work continues.
- Future Commissioning and Provision of Library Services. The report updated the Committee on progress made on the county-wide redesign of library services and received details of the trends in Library usage
- Shropshire Council's Play Area Provision. Members received an update on the provision of play areas in the County and the development of a Play Strategy for Shropshire. This has since led to the wider development of a Shropshire Public Open Spaces and recreation needs assessment which is progressing at present.
- Update on the Waste Management Service. The report gave an update on progress regarding the construction and commissioning of the Battlefield Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) and on the redesign of waste collection services. Prior to the meeting Members had visited the ERF

- Progress report on the Highways and Environment Maintenance Contract. The report gave an update on the Highways and Environment Term Maintenance Contract (HETMC). Members raised several concerns including communication of information to town and parish councils and the standard of some of the highways repairs. As a result of the meeting a new approach to communicating with members has been developed. Members also confirmed that they considered that the arrangements for winter maintenance were robust. Prior to the meeting Members had visited the Longden Road Depot to look at the winter maintenance equipment.
- Scrutiny of the Financial Strategy. Members noted the contents of the Financial Strategy and commented on parts of the strategy which impacted on services covered by the Committee
- Review of DEFRA Recommendations on the Waste Contract. The report advised Members of the recommendations arising from the DEFRA review of the Waste Management Contract. Members were advised that the production of the Contract Management Manual was the only item outstanding from the recommendations.
- The development of a Play Strategy for Shropshire. Members received a verbal update on the development of a Play Strategy. Members commented that the provision of recreational areas needed to be embedded into planning decisions and that there was a need to ensure that planning policies included the scope for this and recommended that Members of Planning Committees receive further training on this. These areas highlighted by the committee have been factored into the work that is ongoing by officers in developing the Needs Assessment.
- Shropshire Council Response to Flooding. The report outlined Shropshire Council's response to flooding, and illustrated how the Council worked with partner agencies when flooding may impact on people and property and also the work done by the Council in its role as a Lead Flood Authority.
- Provision of Community Transport for Shropshire. The report set out details on the current provision of Community Transport in Shropshire and the work of a number of small bus Community Transport Schemes in providing this. It was agreed that the Committee receive a presentation from the Director of the Community Transport Consortium and representatives from Community Transport Groups at a future meeting.
- The work of the Drug and Alcohol Action team. The report updated Members of the work of the Drug and Alcohol Team and the work being carried out to recommission the service. It was agreed that a further report would be brought to Committee once the recommissioned service was in place.

- Update on the Highways Permit Scheme. The report provided an overview of the performance of the Street Works Team since the introduction of the West and Shires Permit Scheme (WASP) in April 2014, which had arisen from a recommendation made by the Scrutiny Committee in 2011. Members were advised that the Streetworks Team were self-funding with income coming from a number of sources. and that any surplus that was made would be reinvested in the highways system.
- Development of Sustainable Energy. The report set out the work being carried out by the Council in the field of sustainable energy and future opportunities that may be available.

2.3 During the year the Committee considered the following petitions from members of the public:

- Request for a 20mph speed restriction on New Street in Shrewsbury (between the junction with Copthorne Road and the Boat House public house). Members noted the concerns of the petitioner and the Highways, Transport and Environmental Commissioning Manager meet with the Local Member to discuss ways of improving the data collection
- Request for a 20mph speed limit introduced on Redstone Drive, Highley, near to the local school. Members were advised that that road safety measures on Redstone Drive would be considered as part of a wider scheme for Highley as part of the annual prioritisation process for schemes to be funded for design in 2016/17
- Request for the removal of the speed cushions installed on the B5063 Wem Road, Shawbury, adjacent to RAF Shawbury. Members were advised that the speed cushions were installed as part of a wider package of measures under a safer routes to school plan following concerns raised by the local community, and supported the retention of the speed cushions.

3.0 What are our Future Plans?

3.1 The direction of work for the Committee is guided by the Director of Place and Enterprise and the Committee continues to focus its work by involvement in the following areas:

- i. Future development of the library service including the development of a new library strategy and scrutiny of the new model for customer service points.
- ii. Waste – to review and scrutinise the new collection models that are being introduced
- iii. Ringway – ongoing monitoring of the contract and performance and the annual winter preparations.

- iv. Ongoing development of the Shrewsbury swimming pool and the next phase of work considering alternative business cases for the current site.
- v. Bereavement Services – to review the new operation under the new contractor.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information) Reports to Environment and Services Scrutiny Committee 2015-16
Human Rights Act Appraisal The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998
Environmental Appraisal There are no environmental issues relating to this report.
Risk Management Appraisal There are no risks associated with this report.
Community / Consultations Appraisal Consultation is a component of Scrutiny work to collect information to support the development of conclusions and recommendations.
Cabinet Members Councillor Stuart West Councillor Simon Jones Councillor Malcolm Price
Local Member/s All
Appendices None