

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2020**

### **COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

#### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 The annual statement of the Communities Overview Committee provides a brief review of the committee's work during the previous two years, as well as an overview of its work for the year ahead.

#### **2.0 Communities Overview Committee**

- 2.1 During two-year period 2018-2020 the Communities Overview Committee has looked at topics from across its remit. The following have been the main areas of focus:

- **Burials capacity in Shropshire**  
The committee held Shropshire Council to account for its burial strategy, recognising the challenges it faced in meeting increased demand for space. The committee will continue to look at this matter on a regular basis.
- **Emergency planning**  
Officers from emergency planning provided members with an overview of emergency planning arrangements in Shropshire. The committee scrutinised arrangements and agreed that look at the role of the rural and community strategy in helping town and parish councils to support emergency planning.
- **Community safety strategy**  
The committee received an annual update of the council's partnership work to tackle crime and build community resilience. The committee agreed to work with the People Overview Committee to look at emerging structures to tackle cross-cutting issues such as exploitation and anti-social behaviour.
- **Community Transport**  
The committee has managed a task and finish group to look at the challenges facing public transport, and how to fund a transport network that meets the needs of people in Shropshire. It will invite officers to a meeting later in early 2021 to receive an update on emerging proposals.
- **Public rights of way**  
The committee has looked at both how Shropshire Council supports developing open green space for public recreation, and ensuring as much of the county's public rights of way are openly accessible.

- **Empty Homes**

The People Overview Committee has referred the matter of empty homes to the Communities Overview Committee, to ensure that the service remains able to carry out its function effectively. It will receive a regular update from officers on the extent of the issue in Shropshire.

- **Food Poverty**

The committee explored options for Shropshire Council to use its physical resources to support third sector organisation within the Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance. It called on the alliance to explore other factors affecting food poverty, such as rural isolation and poor transport links, and asked how it could work with community transport groups to support vulnerable adults.

### 3.0 2020-2021 onwards

#### 3.1 Significant topics emerging for the coming year include:

- Rough sleeping
- Homepoint
- Climate change action plan
- Flood risk management
- Libraries
- Community transport
- Rural and Communities Strategy
- Cornovii
- Warmer homes and empty homes

<p><b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b></p>
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<p>None</p>
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<p><b>Human Rights Act Appraisal</b></p>
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<p>The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998.</p>
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<p><b>Environmental Appraisal</b></p>
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<p>There are no environmental issues relating to this report.</p>
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<p><b>Risk Management Appraisal</b></p>
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<p>There are no risks associated with this report.</p>
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### **Community / Consultations Appraisal**

Consultation is a component of scrutiny work to collect information to support the development of conclusions and recommendations.

#### **Cabinet Members**

Cllr Gwilym Butler

Cllr Lezley Picton

Cllr Steve Davenport

#### **Local Member/s**

All

#### **Appendices**

None