



Committee and date

Council

17 July 2014

10.00am

Item No

12

Public

**Councillor Steve Davenport
Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee Chairman**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14
ENTERPRISE AND GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

1.0 Summary

1.1 This is an overview of the work of the Enterprise and Growth Scrutiny Committee during 2013-14 and its plans for the forthcoming year.

2.0 What has been done?

The Committee has a flexible approach and only meets in a formal context if there is a clear need. It has met formally on three occasions over the last year and also held one informal meeting with appropriate Portfolio Holders and Officers to discuss where scrutiny involvement may be appropriate and lead to positive outcomes.

2.1 Petition regarding 20 mph Speed Limits

The Committee acted as a recipient to a Petition regarding a request to implement 20mph speed limits on all urban and residential roads in Oswestry. The Committee had previously made an input into the Council's Road Safety Policy and in response to the petition, was able to explain the Policy, how it was applied and provide advice on the correct route for making such a request.

2.2 Planning Committee Structures

The Committee set up a Task and Finish Group to undertake a substantial piece of work to address amongst other issues, the capacity to continue to service the Council's three planning committees at current levels of applications.

In addition to meeting as a Group, the Task and Finish Group worked in a number of different ways: it heard from and questioned the Portfolio Holder and Planning Services Manager; drew up and analysed the results of a survey

of members on alternative committee delivery models; met with a members on an individual basis to hear their views; considered e-mail submissions from individual members; and met with and questioned Planning Committee Members from a neighbouring authority which only had one Planning Committee.

Six main evidence based recommendations were made relating to: increasing delegation rates; simplifying reports; maintaining three Committees but meeting centrally to minimise costs; holding special meetings in local areas when necessary; and recommending that Planning Committee Members do not vote or take part in debate when applications are considered, giving them the chance to speak freely on applications in their own areas.

These recommendations were all accepted by the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Commissioning (Central), and where appropriate, by Full Council.

The Committee intends to reform the Group to review and report back on success or otherwise of implementation of the recommendations. It is mindful, however, that the number of applications has been influenced by the issues concerning a Five Year Land Supply and this will be taken into account once the Group reforms.

2.3 Rapid Action Groups

The Committee is grateful to the work of the Rapid Action Groups on Economic Growth and Regulatory and Business Support and has received feedback from the Chairs of both of those groups, the findings of which are influencing the current work programme of the Committee.

3.0 Future Plans

- 3.1 The Committee has identified a small group of its Members to develop and propose a Work Programme, including identification of the best way forward for Scrutiny to play a constructive part in the role of redesign of the area of Economic Growth.

At its next meeting the Committee intends to consider and agree a proposed work programme on potential future scrutiny work areas using evidence including that obtained from: the learning from the Rapid Action Groups; documents from the Economic Growth re-design work, information gathered by Committee Members from companies within their own electoral divisions to inform the Economic Growth re-design work; the findings from 'Project North' and 'Oswestry Economic Growth Commissioning'; Economic Growth performance summary 'dashboards'; the recent Business Summit; and a June 2014 report on Tourism in Shropshire.

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

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

Councillors Mal Price, Steve Charmley and Claire Wild

Local Member/s

All

Appendices

None