



Committee and Date

Council

23 July 2015

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Item

12

Public

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

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015
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 2014-2015, the plans for the forthcoming year, and its achievements in providing positive outcomes for local people.

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 In July 2014 the Committee received a public petition to 'Save the Shropshire badgers'; the petitioners were calling on Shropshire Council to prohibit the culling of badgers on Council owned land and to offer financial or 'in principle' support for the local free badger vaccination programme to six farms in Shropshire. After a lengthy debate, the Committee agreed to offer its 'in principle' support to the vaccination wholly funded by the Shropshire Badger Group. It was also agreed that should any extension to the badger cull be agreed by Government, the Council would consider its position at that time.

2.4 The redesign of the Council's Waste Collection Service, Shropshire Energy and Growth Solutions [SEGS], has received the Committee's attention and the two prototype services being trialled in the Bayston Hill, Meole Brace and the Hanwood areas have been fully explained and Members received assurances on the benefits of 'doing things differently' that were being closely scrutinised and the costs analysed. Members took up the offer to see the two prototypes in action and arrangements were made for those who were interested to accompany a waste collection to see the service in action. Members then also visited residents to ascertain their views on the pilot services.

2.5 Consideration of the information provided within the performance dashboards has been a regular and ongoing agenda item for the Committee. The dashboards are presented on screen and in colour in order to facilitate

understanding of the information presented. The Committee regularly considers the information in the dashboards relevant to its remit, namely:

- Financially Secure Outcome Dashboard
- Economic Growth Priority Dashboard
- Environment Outcome Dashboard

- 2.6 During the early Autumn 2014 the Committee took the opportunity to hold a meeting off-site at the Energy Recovery Facility at Battlefields to see the new facility for themselves and have an understanding of the process involved and the benefits to Shropshire residents in dealing with municipal waste produced in the county in future.
- 2.7 Given the addition to the Committee's remit to include highways, the Committee undertook some detailed scrutiny of the redesign of this area that included scrutiny of the Ringway contract. At its meeting in October 2014 the Committee heard evidence from the UK Managing Director of Ringway and the Midlands Director and had a frank exchange of comments. The Committee formed the opinion that although performance had not been impressive during the first third of the contract, reassurance was received that performance would continue to improve. The Committee agreed that a further performance report should be provided at the three year point of the contract cycle.
- 2.8 In November 2014 the Committee held a meeting specifically to contribute to the overarching scrutiny response to the progress made in delivering the Council's Financial Strategy and Business Plan. Its comments were reported back to the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee to compile the overall scrutiny response. During this debate the Committee identified areas within its remit that would be added to its future Work Programme including, keeping Shropshire's streets clean, visitors to theatres, museums, libraries and leisure facilities, the 'condition' of highways, development of the Shrewsbury swimming pool and monitoring of the part night lighting initiative.
- 2.9 In order to promote an understanding of the future commissioning and provision of library services and hubs, the Committee held its December meeting at the Craven Arms Community Centre and received a tour of the facility. Members witnessed for themselves the link between the library and the other community initiatives in that location. The Committee had been pleased to note that the location of the library in the community centre had resulted in increased usage of the library facility whilst contributing to the development of a strong and resilient community base. The Committee agreed to receive a further update on the library redesign and co-location model. [This has just taken place at the Committee's meeting in June 2015].
- 2.10 At its last 2014-2015 meeting, the Committee considered a detailed report on Shropshire Council's play area provision and will be receiving an update on the development of a Play Strategy and how this can be achieved.

3.0 What are our Future Plans?

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

- i. Face to Face redesign in libraries, customer service points and registrars.
- ii. Waste – a) how to encourage more recycling and behaviour change in customers and b) ways to support Veolia in encouraging customers to recycle.
- iii. Ringway – ongoing monitoring of the contract and performance and the annual Winter preparations.
- iv. Development of the Shrewsbury swimming pool and the options being considered.
- v. Petition re 20mph speed limit on New Street, Shrewsbury and a ‘Kill Your Speed’ sign to be considered at the Committee’s September meeting.

<p>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 2014-15</p>
<p>Human Rights Act Appraisal The recommendations contained in this report are compatible with the provisions of the Human Rights act 1998</p>
<p>Environmental Appraisal There are no environmental issues relating to this report.</p>
<p>Risk Management Appraisal There are no risks associated with this report.</p>
<p>Community / Consultations Appraisal Consultation is a component of Scrutiny work to collect information to support the development of conclusions and recommendations.</p>
<p>Cabinet Members Councillor Steve Charmley Councillor Tim Barker Councillor Simon Jones Councillor Malcolm Price</p>
<p>Local Member/s All</p>
<p>Appendices None</p>