

Report of the Chairman on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This report gives an overview of the main issues considered at the extraordinary meeting held on 31 July 2017 and the 19 September 2017 meeting.

Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 31 July 2017

1. Changes to Surrey County Council's Community Recycling Centres

- 1.1 The Committee discussed Surrey County Council's proposed changes to Community Recycling Centres which were out to consultation. It heard from the Council's Group Head for Neighbourhood Services that since previous changes and charges to waste services were implemented in 2016, the number of fly tipping incidents in Spelthorne had nearly doubled and that it would therefore be reasonable to conclude that the latest proposals to remove the free daily allowance and/or reduce opening hours would lead to a further increase.
- 1.2 County Councillor Goodman attended the meeting and explained the financial reasons for the proposed changes. He confirmed that all the comments made by councillors and residents at the meeting would be considered as part of the consultation process.
- 1.3 The Committee recommended that: Surrey County Council include the concerns and feedback raised at this meeting in its consultation; each Surrey district and borough council to develop, in partnership with Surrey County Council, a common assessment/framework for measuring fly tipping waste.
- 1.4 The Committee also commented that the Eco Park at Charlton Lane would be operating 24/7 and therefore believed a closure of the Community Recycling Centre for two days a week would result in minimal savings.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 19 September 2017

1. Review of Community Safety

- 1.1 The Committee noted the report from Keith McGroary, Community Safety Officer on a review of Community Safety over the past year and that there was an increase of 8.1% in reported crime which was consistent with the national picture.
- 1.2 Inspector Sproston of Surrey Police attended the meeting and explained the reasons for the rise in reported crime: that in addition to more reports being made of child sexual exploitation and domestic violence, changes to Home Office accounting rules had meant incidents that would not have been recorded as a crime in the past were now classified as such.
- 1.3 The Committee thanked the Police for their community based handling of the national security operations over the previous weekend on behalf of affected residents.

Report from Police and Crime Commissioner

- 1.4 The Committee heard from Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner David Munro who gave an overview of his priorities, the successes of his first year in office and the ongoing challenges.
- 2. Anti-Social Behaviour in Staines-upon-Thames town centre**
 - 2.1 The Committee discussed a report by Keith McGroary, Community Safety Officer on anti-social behaviour in Staines-upon-Thames town centre which had seen a rise of 19% in 2016 compared to a drop in incidents across the Borough.
 - 2.2 Inspector Alan Sproston confirmed that Surrey Police had already put measures in place to deal with the problems in the town centre and that they were committed to providing a further resource on Sundays, to work with businesses and help reassure the community that the area is a safe place to be.
 - 2.3 The Committee also heard from Joanna Hall, Two Rivers Manager, who said that the Staines-upon-Thames Business Improvement District (BID) would be providing Town Rangers to act as ambassadors for the town and work in partnership with Surrey Police.
 - 2.4 The Committee recommended that the Council give consideration to expansion of the Joint Enforcement Team (JET) and further integration of the JET team with the Police; and agreed to establish a Task and Finish group incorporating key partners, to further review the effectiveness of the multi-agency response to anti-social behaviour, improving community engagement and increasing footfall in Staines town centre on Sundays.

Councillor Colin Davis

Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 October 2017