

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

This report gives an overview of the issues considered at the 28 November 2017 meeting.

1. Outcome of recommendation to Cabinet

- 1.1 The Committee noted the Cabinet response to the Committee's recommendation for measures to deal with anti-social behaviour in Staines-upon-Thames on Sundays. Members requested clarification of the powers the Joint Enforcement Team had devolved to them by the police. Members voiced an interest in accepting the invitation from the police made at the Committee's September meeting, to accompany them on patrols in Staines town centre.

2. Homeless Reduction Act

- 2.1 The Committee noted a report on preparations being made in the Housing Team in time for the implementation of the Homeless Reduction Act on 3 April 2018. The Committee was mindful that further essential work continues to be done in preparation for this new legislation and agreed to review progress and cost impact at its March 2018 meeting.

3. Procurement and small and medium sized businesses

- 3.1 The Committee noted a report on actions being taken and options being considered to increase awareness of procurement opportunities with local businesses.

4. Budget Issues 2017/18 to 2019/20

- 4.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Chief Finance Officer outlining the context of the budget for 2018/19 and the Council's medium term financial strategy. The Committee congratulated the Leader, Cabinet and Chief Executive on the positive results achieved from the Council's asset acquisition strategy. The Committee agreed to include an item at a future meeting on reviewing the Council's approach to risk management with respect to property acquisitions.

5. Financial Reports

- 5.1 The Committee received and noted the financial monitoring reports for the first six months of the financial year to the end of September 2017. The Committee asked for a short written update on the Laleham Park project.

6. Leader's Task Group for Economic Development

- 6.1 The Committee deferred consideration of an update on the Leader's Task Group as neither the Leader nor the Chairman of the Task Group were able to attend the meeting to respond to questions from the Committee.

7. Appointment of members to Task and Finish Group

- 7.1 The Committee appointed Councillors Barratt, Friday and Saliagopoulos to serve on the Task and Finish Group which was set up at the September meeting 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.

8. Committee Work Programme 2017-2018

The Committee noted the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year which included the addition of a review of preparations for the implementation of the Homeless Reduction Act and a review of the Council's risk management strategy as regards its property acquisitions.

Councillor Colin Davis

Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 December 2017