

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 meeting held on 15 January 2019.

1. Task Groups

- 1.1 The Committee discussed if there were suitable topics on its current work programme for a task group to work on and agreed that it would be more useful to consider topics which could be reviewed by a task group at the start of the next municipal year.
- 1.2 As a result of feedback to the Leisure Centre consultation from residents, I proposed that a task group be set up to consider the topic of consultation with residents. I have discussed this with officers and will report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

2. Heathrow and southern light railway

- 2.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Group Head for Regeneration and Growth on Heathrow expansion and the southern light railway. In response to questions from members on the provision of affordable housing for Heathrow key workers, she offered to provide the Committee with a detailed response from the Strategic Planning Manager following the meeting.

3. Housing Options update

- 3.1 The Committee received an update on the Council's successful implementation of the Homeless Reduction Act, the Choice Based Lettings Scheme, Rent Assure Scheme initiatives and progress being made for the White House Site.
- 3.2 The Committee noted that due to previous good practice and the adoption of initiatives to assist in homeless prevention, and an understanding of the causes of homelessness locally, Spelthorne Borough Council did not experience a significant increase in the numbers of households approaching for assistance.
- 3.3 The Committee congratulated the Housing Team on the way they had implemented the legislation.

4. Leisure Centre Consultation

- 4.1 The Committee noted an update on the first phase of consultation on the Council's proposals for a new Spelthorne Leisure Centre, including the process undertaken, a summary of the results received and some issues to be addressed prior to moving forward with any future phases of consultation on this project.
- 4.2 The Committee heard from Cath Moore, on behalf of Staines Park Residents (SPR) Group, about the issues which had raised concerns for residents as regards the way the consultation was undertaken. She also referred to the collaborative engagement between the SPR Group and the Council and expressed her gratitude that the Council had recognised the strength of feeling of residents and designated Staines Park with FIT status.

5. Project Management dashboard

- 5.1 The Committee received an update report on the progress of projects and their outcomes across the Council.
- 5.2 Members commended officers for their work on improving the format and content of the update reports. The Committee queried the omission of confidential information on the property development reports relating to risks and requested that this be included in a Part 2 (confidential) report at the March meeting in order that the members could effectively scrutinise the matter before them.

6. Exempt Item – Capital Strategy report

- 6.1 The Committee noted and endorsed the report on a draft Capital Strategy and congratulated officers on the professionalism of their approach.

Councillor Sinead Mooney

Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

21 February 2019