

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

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met on two occasions since the previous report was prepared for Council. This report therefore gives an overview of the main issues considered by the Committee at its meetings on 3 and 10 September 2019.

### **Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 3 September 2019**

#### **1. Heathrow Airport Expansion**

- 1.1 The Committee received a factual presentation on the 'pros and cons' of expansion at the airport by SBC officers from the Heathrow Expansion Working Group and a presentation on Heathrow West, the alternative proposal for a new terminal configuration for an expanded airport, by representatives of the Arora Group.
- 1.2 All councillors were given the opportunity to convey their views and those of the residents in their ward on the expansion proposals.
- 1.3 The Committee then debated the key component parts of the Heathrow expansion proposal in order to identify a position on each of these and to inform its recommendation to Cabinet on the Council's policy stance.
- 1.4 The Committee concluded that as the current proposals from Heathrow Airport Ltd did not address the Council's previous concerns and additionally now presented significantly greater issues for residents, it recommended to Cabinet that Spelthorne's policy stance on Heathrow Expansion must indicate the Borough is unable to support the development consent order in its current form.
- 1.5 It further recommended that the Heathrow West proposal specifically, needed to be explored in greater depth, and that only if the Council's demands as agreed by the Committee (and set out in the minutes of the meeting) were addressed to the Council's satisfaction, then and only then would Spelthorne be able to review its position and support expansion.

### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting - 10 September 2019**

#### **1. Review of Community Safety**

- 1.6 The Committee noted the report from Jackie Taylor, Group Head for Neighbourhood Services on a review of Community Safety over the past year.
- 1.7 Sergeant Grinter of Surrey Police attended the meeting and explained the reasons for the rise in reported crime: more reports being made of domestic violence, the location of a custody centre in Spelthorne which fed from Runnymede and Elmbridge, and changes to Home Office reporting of crime rules had meant incidents that would not have been recorded as a crime in the past were now classified as such.

#### **Report from Police and Crime Commissioner**

- 1.8 The Committee heard from Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner David Munro who gave an overview of the role of the PCC, the Police and Crime Plan priorities and the

ongoing challenges. He also gave details of the increase in police officers as result of the precept and responded to members' questions on a range of issues.

## **2. South Western Railway Franchise update**

- 2.1 David Wilby gave a detailed presentation on progress made with the SWR franchise delivery plan. Mr Wilby acknowledged that performance was not at the level they had hoped, but they were working closely with Network Rail and had taken measures to improve this.

## **3. Corporate Project Management**

- 3.1 The Committee received in private an updated report on projects across the Council and a presentation on the Council's housing development programme.

## **4. Work Programme**

- 4.1 The Committee considered the work programme for 2019 to 2021 and proposed that consideration was given to moving forward the fire service operation review in the programme. Ethical investment was also to be added to the programme,
- 4.2 It was agreed to set up two task groups to consider the following:
- Fly-tipping, abandoned vehicles and litter
  - Free off-peak parking in Staines upon Thames

**Councillor Vivienne Leighton**

*Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

**24 October 2019**