

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

There has been one meeting of the Committee since the last Council meeting and this took place on 3 November 2020. This report gives an overview of the main issues considered at that meeting.

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

- 1.1 The Committee noted a report on a review of Community Safety for 2019/20, setting out the priorities, statutory obligations and overview of activities of the Safer Stronger Partnership Board and data on crimes in Spelthorne for the last two years and in comparison to the Surrey force area.
- 1.2 The Committee also received an update on the latest crime figures for Spelthorne from the Borough Inspector and noted a presentation by the Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner highlighting his achievements and his priorities for 2020/21, the concerns raised by residents and what he was doing to tackle crime.

### **2. Leisure centres update**

- 2.1 The Committee received an update on the operation of the Leisure Centres since the Council had provided a support package after the first lockdown and the approach they were taking during the latest lockdown period to allow them to react quickly and smoothly when the lockdown ended.
- 2.2 The Committee noted that in the event the Leisure Centres required additional financial support as a result of the second lockdown, any such request would be discussed with the Council.

### **3. Budget Issues 2021-2022**

- 3.1 The Committee received a presentation on the Budget Issues for 2021/22 to 2022/23 which outlined the challenges for bridging the significant 2021-22 Budget gap due to COVID-19 and the risks, pressures and uncertainties for future years.
- 3.2 The Committee noted that more detailed briefings on the draft Budget would be provided at its next meeting in January 2021 and at an extraordinary meeting in February 2021

### **4. Financial Reports**

- 4.1 The Committee noted the capital and revenue spend for the period ending September 2020 and received responses from officers to detailed questions on expenditure and variances.

### **5. Report from the Climate Change Working Group**

- 5.1 The Committee noted an update on the work of the Climate Change Working Group from Cllr Noble, which outlined the strategy to address climate change, including:
  - identifying the Council's own carbon footprint

- establishment of smaller sub-groups of the Task Group to focus on specific issues, including the key areas of transport; Policies; assets and financial investments,
- partnering with other organisations
- communications
- personal 'Green audits' for councillors

## **6. Corporate Project Management**

- 6.1 The Committee received an update on project management and raised concerns about the clarity and level of the information provided to facilitate effective scrutiny. The Committee agreed to ask Cllr Noble to work with officers on simplifying the reports to help members scrutinise them.
- 6.2 The Committee was also concerned that some projects were missing from the list provided and agreed that a comprehensive list of projects with the appropriate and relevant level of detail would be provided to the Committee in future.

**Councillor Vivienne Leighton**

*Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*

**10 December 2020**