

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

This report gives an overview of the issues considered at the 15 September 2015 meeting.

1. Review of Community Safety

- 1.1 The Committee noted a report on a review of Community Safety over the past year and that although, overall reported crime figures were up by 6%, this increase was influenced by: lack of police resources, different reporting methods and police officers being diverted to deal with 'new' crimes, e.g. child sexual exploitation via the internet.
- 1.2 It was pleased to note that the Joint Enforcement Team (JET), piloted in the Borough in December 2014, has had a positive impact and was well received by the general public.

2. Housing Issues

- 2.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Joint Heads of Housing and Independent Living on how the Council is dealing with: homelessness, affordable housing, the winter shelter duty and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).
- 2.2 The Committee noted the Council's situation and approach with regards to: homelessness, prevention initiatives, the private rented sector, fraud, access into social housing, affordable housing, Partnership working, winter shelter provision, RSLs and new developments.

3. Corporate Project Management update

- 3.1 The Committee noted an update on progress with the Council's priority projects and the Towards a Sustainable Future programme.

4. Leader's Task Groups

- 4.1 The Committee noted updates on progress with the work of the Leader's Sub-Task Groups for Assets and Regeneration in relation to Riverside car park, Ashford car park and all other assets.

5. Committee Work Programme 2015-2016

- 5.1 The Committee noted that I and the vice-chairman had worked with officers to produce a draft work programme from the topics identified by the Committee at its last meeting.
- 5.2 I also asked the Committee to keep in mind the subject of devolution for inclusion in the current work programme, once the government's response to the Three Counties proposals was known.

Councillor A.E. Friday

Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

22 October 2015