

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE

23 March 2016

1 Introduction

This report summarises the activities of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee during March. Individual reports from the scrutiny chairs are referenced as follows:

Section 2	Cllr Brian Oosthuysen, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Section 3	Cllr Tim Harman, Chair of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Section 4	Cllr Iain Dobie, Chair of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Section 5	Cllr Robert Bird, Chair of the Environment and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Section 6	Cllr Paul Hodgkinson, Chair of Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2 Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (18 March 2016) – Cllr Brian Oosthuysen

- 2.1 The March meeting of Overview and Management Committee had not been held when the papers for the Council meeting were issued. At the meeting on 18 March, members will be asked to consider the following items:
- 2.2 Procurement Update
Members will receive an update from Graham Collins who will provide an overview of Commercial, details of Procurement Regulations and Policy Changes and an update on Contract Management.
- 2.3 Performance Reporting
Members will receive the Strategic Performance Management Report for 3rd Quarter 2015/16 as well as performance reports for Strategy and Challenge and Core Council.

3 Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (10 March 2016) – Cllr Tim Harman

- 3.1 Reshaping Services for Families and Young People
The committee received a detailed presentation, from the Lead Commissioner Early Years, on this consultation outlining the engagement process, the proposals, and the

headlines from feedback received so far. (For information the full consultation on this matter is available at this link <https://gloucestershire-consult.objective.co.uk/portal>; and the presentation slides are available on the council's website.)

Within the context of reduced resources it is important that there is a clear and consistent link between universal and targeted services; that those children and families most in need are able to access support; and that services are structured such that these families can be identified.

The Ambassadors for Vulnerable Children and Young People have been involved in the stakeholder events relating to ensuring that the voice of the child is heard and listened to in this consultation. The committee was able to hear about this first hand as it benefits from the co-option of the Ambassador role on to the committee. It was clear that a lot of thought had been given as to how to engage with these very young children.

There have been misunderstandings about this consultation, particularly with regard to the perception that children's centres would close; it was helpful to get clarity on this and hear that this was not the intention. Members were concerned as to the risks attached to this policy direction; these would be fully explored in the Consultation Report to be received at Cabinet on 8 June 2016.

In the main committee members agreed that this was a positive direction of travel, although it is important to note that this was not the view of the whole committee. The committee agreed that this matter will be added to its work plan in order to follow up on progress.

3.2 Safeguarding: Learning in Practice

The committee was joined by the Head of Quality Children and Young People to discuss this matter. Members were in agreement that training opportunities must not be a tick box exercise but must be able to evidence that it makes a difference. How to measure the impact of training is clearly complex. It was good to hear from the Head of Quality that there is follow up at regular intervals to test out recall. The data can also be analysed to demonstrate impact and whether there is a correlation between training events and an increase in referral rates (eg. this has been the case following training on Child Sexual Exploitation and Neglect training). Customer feedback is another method used as this can show whether learning has been translated into action.

The Head of Quality explained that from her perspective the big question was 'So What?' in other words what difference has this training had on practice, and this was the main driver underlying training design going forward. She is concerned with the

response rate for the follow up evaluations and acknowledged that this needs to increase.

Training also includes e-learning. Members agreed that it would be helpful for members of council to engage with this online training and information will be included in Members Matter on how members of council can take up this opportunity.

3.3 Qtr 3 Performance Report

The Director of Children's Service's informed the committee that there were no new emerging trends. Good progress is being made with regard to workforce issues and officers are working on how to best allocate this resource. It was good to note that the retention rate for social workers has improved.

The number of school exclusions is a concern and the committee agreed that it will take a detailed look at this issue at a future meeting.

Members are also concerned about the safeguarding risks relating to home schooling. The committee agreed to add this matter to its work plan.

3.4 Revenue Monitoring

Committee members continue to be concerned with regard to the external placement budget for children in care. Members are aware that there are strict procedures relating to these placements with the Director of Children's Services having the final sign off. However this budget area is not decreasing and members have therefore agreed to undertake a deep dive on this matter at a future meeting.

The committee is also concerned with the costs relating to agency staff. It is acknowledged that this may be a necessary measure to cover sickness absence; but it is to be hoped that the additional investment in social workers will see this reliance reduced in future.

The committee was informed of the consultation on the Schools National Funding Formula which is open until 17 April 2016. This is for a national funding formula to make the distribution of schools funding fairer which is something that Gloucestershire has campaigned for. However there is the potential for some aspects of these proposals to have a significant negative impact on the local authority. The Schools Forum will be debating this matter at its meeting on 17 March 2016 and sending a response to this consultation. The council will also be submitting a response. I would encourage all members of council to engage with this consultation which is available at this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/schools-national-funding-formula>. This information will also be included in Members Matter.

3.5 Co-Option of the Ambassador for Vulnerable Children and Young People

The committee has valued the involvement of the Ambassadors in its work and was happy to agree to cop-opt this role on to the committee for another year.

4 Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (8 March 2016) – Cllr Iain Dobie

4.1 CQC Inspection of 2Gether NHS Foundation Trust (2G)

The committee was pleased to welcome the Lead Inspector for this Inspection to inform and engage with the committee on this matter. The committee was also joined by the Chair and Chief Executive of 2G. The Trust had received an overall rating of Good. Two service areas - acute wards for adults of working age and psychiatric intensive care units (PICU's) and mental health crisis services and health based places of safety – were rated as Outstanding. 2G is the only mental health trust in the country to have achieved outstanding ratings in these areas. (The CQC presentation slides are available on the council's website for information.)

The Inspection had identified areas where work was needed to bring the service up to the required standard. In total there are 15 'must do' actions and 58 'should do'. The Trust is required to submit an Action Plan to the CQC on these matters and is on schedule to deliver this within the required timeline. Some of these actions have already completed.

The committee congratulated the Trust on the outcome of the inspection and agreed that the ratings indicated that there was a strong leadership and a committed and motivated workforce at the Trust.

The committee will monitor progress against the Trust's action plan.

4.2 Sexual Health Services in Gloucestershire

The Director of Public Health and Public Health Outcome Manager gave a detailed presentation on this important area. (The presentation slides are available on the council's website for information.) Although the commissioning profile shows that responsibility falls across the local authority, the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England (NHSE) the committee was assured that there was strong collaborative working in place and that these services were operating effectively.

Going forward within the context of reduced funding it will be important to ensure that the services are identifying the groups of people most at risk, and targeting resources to those groups. The committee was shown a map of the needs analysis for the Stroud District area and the associated locations of services. The committee has

asked for this information for the whole county and will ensure that it is made available in Members Matter.

The committee agreed that the current Public Health performance scorecard did not sufficiently inform the committee on this issue, and was pleased to note that the overall scorecard is being reviewed.

4.3 Qtr3 Adult Social Care and Public Health Performance Report

Members welcomed the fact that performance against targets relating to employment and settled accommodation for people with a learning disability continues to improve. However we continue to struggle to improve performance against reassessments targets. Performance against drug and alcohol targets remains static. The committee was also concerned that the adult social care budget continued to overspend; currently showing a £4.1m overspend. It was explained that there was the possibility that funding previously set aside for the Care Act could be used to mitigate this position (as the government had changed the timescale for this work) but this was not certain. Members are aware that the social care levy will be factored into the budget for 2016/17; but there was a view from some members as to whether the budget set for this area was realistic given the propensity to be in an overspend position.

A significant area of concern going forward was the (national) shortage of Domiciliary Care workers. Locally, two providers of domiciliary care have recently chosen to step away from providing this service. There is also the potential impact on the already limited workforce of the new nursing qualifications – the associate and apprentice nurses. Nationally the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) is lobbying on this matter.

4.4 Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG) Performance Report

Demand on the system continues to be high. The report showed that there is much good performance across the system, but concerns around cancer, stroke and A and E remain, although it is acknowledged that the GCCG and the Hospitals Trust are working hard to address this. Members were also concerned with regard to the mixed sex accommodation breaches; it was explained that this was a result of the high demand on hospital services.

The Social Prescribing work is progressing well with good sign up from the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Workforce factors are a significant contributor to many performance factors and this issue will be looked at in depth at the committee's next meeting.

4.5 Healthwatch Gloucestershire (HWG) Public and Patient Feedback Qtr3

The important role played by pharmacies in the delivery of healthcare in the county had been a recurrent theme during this meeting. During this discussion it was agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Health to question why given the role that pharmacies can play in prevention and delivery there is a proposal to cut funding in this area.

4.6 Proposal for a West Oxfordshire (Cotswolds) Unitary council

The committee expressed its concerns with regard to the potential negative impact on the health and social care of the residents of Gloucestershire. Members heard from both the council and the GCCG regarding their own concerns and these validated the committee's view. It was therefore agreed to issue the following statement: -

This committee expresses its concern regarding the proposal by the Leadership of Cotswold District Council to form a new unitary authority with West Oxfordshire District Council – West Oxfordshire (Cotswolds).

This proposal has serious implications for the health and social care of the people of Gloucestershire. Current understandings and joint working between Gloucestershire's Social Care and Health commissioners and providers will be put at risk as will planned work to further integrate health and social care in the county. For example, this would have a detrimental effect on hospital admissions and discharges, access to Community Hospitals and the Integrated Community and Rapid Response Teams which operate across the county.

The creation of a new council with links to different commissioners and providers adds additional layers of bureaucracy and complexity into the mix.

5 Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (9 March 2016) - Cllr Rob Bird

5.1 Draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) Consultation Response

It is a statutory requirement under the Local Transport Act 2008 for local authorities to produce a Local Transport Plan, outlining each authority's long-term transport strategy. Gloucestershire County Council, in its role as local transport authority, is required to periodically review and update the Local Transport Plan for Gloucestershire. The review process for the current LTP, (adopted in 2011), has reached its conclusion.

At its meeting on 9 March 2016, the committee considered an analysis of the representations received during the final stage of the LTP consultation process. Incorporating feedback from the meeting, the Draft LTP Response Report has been amended to include several minor changes. The draft final report will be considered by Cabinet on 20 April 2016, and presented to Full Council seeking final approval on 29 June 2016.

5.2 Scrutiny Review: Climate Change Task Group

Cllr Sarah Lunnon, Chairman of the 'Climate Change Task Group', presented the task group's final report and recommendations. Cllr Lunnon informed members that the task group recognised the commitment by this council and by many other local organisations in addressing climate change, but believed there was still more work to be done, including the County Council taking a leading role in Gloucestershire to contribute to the terms agreed at the Paris Climate Conference in December 2015, and in limiting global warming.

One of the recommendations considered at the committee meeting on 9 March 2016, proposed inclusion of a statement in the foreword of the LTP to accentuate the urgency of the need to reduce carbon emissions in Gloucestershire. Subject to minor amendment, including a request for the task group to refer proposals relating to GFirst LEP direct to the LEP itself, the committee noted and agreed the report for submission to Cabinet at its meeting on 20 April 2016.

5.3 Scrutiny Review: Access to and from the Forest of Dean Task Group

Cllr Patrick Molyneux, Chairman of the 'Access to and from the Forest of Dean Task Group', presented the task group's final report and recommendations. Cllr Molyneux explained that the initial request for the review had been based on concerns about the life-span of the First River Severn Crossing, and the feasibility of a creating a Third River Crossing. Such concerns, however, were subsequently allayed during a presentation from Highways England, who assured members both River Severn Crossings were well maintained, and did not require replacement.

Cllr Molyneux expanded on the work of the task group before presenting a series of recommendations to the committee. One recommendation proposed the council undertake more work on investigating the economic feasibility of creating a Third River Crossing on the River Severn as part of its long term objectives. The committee noted the formal submission to the public consultation on the Gloucestershire Draft Local Transport Plan 2015-31 and agreed the report for submission to Cabinet at its meeting on 20 April 2016.

5.4 Scrutiny Review: A429 Fosse Way

At the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee meeting on 20 November 2015, it was agreed a scrutiny task group would be established to look at safety and congestion issues on the A429 Fosse Way, with those County Councillors whose divisions were located in the Cotswold District forming the membership of the task group.

Cllr Paul Hodgkinson presented an interim report on the work of the task group. Outlining the ambitions for the review, including promoting road safety; establishing better road signage; and considering the strategic role of the A429, Cllr Hodgkinson informed members that several initial recommendations had been submitted for consideration in the development of the Local Transport Plan for Gloucestershire. The recommendations included: -

- a) Adopting an 'Asset Management' approach for the future maintenance, and traffic management of the A429 and A433 Highways.
- b) To secure additional funding for improvements to the highway safety and traffic management of the A429 Highway, the task group proposed lobbying local MP's to engage in the re-classification of the A429 as a trunk road. Should this approach prove unsuccessful, the task group proposed the council approach Gloucestershire First Local Enterprise Partnership to seek additional funding.
- c) Expressing concerns about the lack of comprehensive traffic data from which to consider issues covering the length of the A429 Highway, the task group proposed investigating potential gaps in traffic data. As part of its investigation, the task group proposed the council contact i-Transport LLP to seek information on the development located at Land South of Chesterton near Cirencester.
- d) The task group proposed that the County Council engage with neighbouring authorities to pursue joint long term activities and aspirations.
- e) Individual members of the task group have offered to make contributions from their 2016/17 local highways funds to commission a 'specific journey time' survey of the A429 Highway.

The task group's final report, including recommendations, will be considered at the Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 18 May 2016, and by Cabinet on 8 June 2016.

5.5 Chief Fire Officer Report

John Beard, Head of Community Safety for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service, presented the Chief Fire Officer's Report and gave a verbal update on the portfolio of services provided by the Fire Service (GFRS) on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council. Members noted the progress that has been made in implementing the GFRS Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015-18, plus the outcomes of recent proposals relating to Cirencester and Painswick Fire Stations. Members were informed that the proposal to deliver prevention and protection and emergency response using two fire engines based at Cirencester Fire Station had been implemented, and the proposal to close Painswick Fire Station and provide emergency response from Stroud, was due to be implemented within the next 3 to 4 weeks.

Full details of the Chief Fire Officer Report, (item 9 of the agenda), can be viewed at the following link:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=673&MId=8224&Ve r=4>

5.6 Commissioning Director's Report

The Commissioning Director updated the committee on matters that might require a decision by Cabinet in the next few months. Full details of the Commissioning Directors Report, (item 8 of the agenda), can be viewed at the following link:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=673&MId=8224&Ve r=4>

5.7 Work Plan

The committee noted an earlier proposal from Cllr Iain Dobie proposing that the committee consider replacing the council's diesel fleet with less damaging automated technology. Supporting the proposal, the committee requested a paper on the Gloucestershire County Council's activities to support and promote electric vehicle use in Gloucestershire at the committee meeting on 18 May 2016.

Other items to be added to the agenda at the committee meeting on 18 May 2016 include; Waste Update; Cotswold Flood Action Group Update and the final report of the A429 Task Group. Advised this was the last meeting of the current membership of the committee, (pending potential changes at the council AGM on 11 May 2016), the committee welcomed a suggestion that the incoming committee consider a review of the work of the committee over the past year and an opportunity to review and update the committee work plan. Suggested items to add to the committee work plan included; Air Pollution; Minerals Local Plan Update and Parking Regulations.

6 Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee (16 March 2015) – Cllr Paul Hodgkinson

The March meeting of the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee had not been held when the papers for the Council meeting were issued. Below is an overview of the items to be considered at the meeting on 16 March 2016. A verbal update on the outcomes from the meeting will be given at the council meeting.

6.1 Work Plan

At an earlier committee meeting, it was agreed that the committee would combine several specific issues into combined topics to form the following work plan items: -

- a) Employment skills/devolution
- b) Promoting Gloucestershire/supporting businesses
- c) Next generation communication technology (including Broadband and Mobile Phone issues)

6.2 At the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee on 16 March 2016 will be invited to: -

- a) Comment on the issues considered at the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee meeting held earlier the same day. (Scrutiny committee members can attend this meeting in an observer capacity). Please refer to the following link to view the agenda and supporting documents for the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee meeting.

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=725&MId=8207&Ver=4>

- b) A verbal update on the Community Pub Task Group;
- c) A course of direction from members on how to promote Gloucestershire as a more desirable destination to live, work and play. It is anticipated this item will be considered as a main agenda item, including presentations from Robin Tjolle,(Cotswold Tourism), and Maureen McAllister, (Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourism), at a committee meeting in April, (date to be confirmed).

6.3 Mobile phone coverage in Gloucestershire

Currently maintaining a watching brief on the status of mobile phone coverage in Gloucestershire, the committee has invited leading Mobile Network Operators to give an update on current issues at a committee meeting in April, (date to be confirmed).