

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY UPDATE

22 March 2017

1 Introduction

This report summarises the activities of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee during January 2017. 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 Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Section 6	Cllr Joe Harris, Chair of Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Section 7	Cllr Roger Wilson, Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel

2 Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (17 March 2017) – Cllr Brian Oosthuysen

At the meeting on 17 March, the Committee will be considering the following items:

2.1 Review of overview and scrutiny

As part of the scrutiny health check undertaken last year it was agreed that a review should be carried out ahead of the May 2017 election to ensure that the overview and scrutiny arrangements at the Council remain fit for purpose.

A meeting of scrutiny chairs and vice-chairs was held on 28 February 2017 to consider how overview and scrutiny has changed since the County Council election in May 2013, what has worked well, what needs improvement and what changes, if any, should be implemented after the election.

A report setting out the findings of the review and making recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is attached at Appendix A..

2.2 Finance update

The Committee will be considering the latest revenue monitoring report and will receive an update on the 2017/18 budget.

2.3 Performance reporting

The Committee will consider the quarterly strategic performance report for the 3rd quarter 2016/17 and the latest performance reports for Core Council and Strategy and Challenge.

2.4 Student mental health

In response to Council motion 774, a task group was set up chaired by Cllr Nigel Robbins. A detailed piece of work was undertaken and evidence was taken from senior commissioning officers from both the Council and Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. Advice was also sought from the Chair of the Gloucestershire Suicide Prevention Partnership Forum. A report setting out the findings of the review is attached at Appendix 2.

3 Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee (9 March 2017) – Cllr Tim Harman

3.1 Safeguarding: Reflecting on the committee's work in this council and challenges for the new council

The last meeting of a council is a good time to reflect on the committee's work with regard to safeguarding. Committee members agreed that the safeguarding framework (based on evidence based work from Research in Practice) had effectively supported and guided committee members and enabled them to achieve a thorough understanding of safeguarding children issues. The committee recommend this framework to the new committee.

A significant piece of work identified during the course of the committee's work in this council was the Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers Task Group. The committee received a detailed update on the work to deliver the recommendations from this task group work. It was good to see that the first Celebrating Social Work Day was held in June 2017 to highlight and celebrate the good practice in place in Gloucestershire.

The aim to have recruited an additional 50 social workers by the end of 2019 is challenging. Committee members were pleased to note the innovative approaches that are being used to attract social workers to Gloucestershire; and that the rate of turnover has dropped. The frontline teams are over represented with newly qualified social workers, and it is important to balance this out with more experienced staff. Having a significant number of newly qualified social workers does carry a risk, however they are well supported. As newly qualified social workers they are part of the Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) scheme, which is designed to help newly qualified social workers develop their skills, knowledge and capability, and strengthen their professional confidence. It provides them with access to regular and focused support during their first year of employment in social work.

The council does still have to rely on agency staff given the number of newly qualified social workers in order to bring in the broader experience. It is good to note that there is a regional protocol in the south west relating to workforce issues, including agency staff. This includes not accepting agency social workers who have left local authority employment in the previous 6 months. It is important to note that the government has introduced an accreditation and skills requirement; and it is expected that all social workers who work with children and families are accredited by 2020. Practice leaders need to be accredited by 2018.

The committee was impressed with the progress made with regard to the task group recommendations. However, members were disappointed that the recommendation relating to the better use of technology is not further forward. Members were informed that funding has been identified and a project manager appointed. The committee will monitor progress on this issue in the new council.

The committee took this opportunity to thank our social workers for their commitment and dedication to what is a challenging job.

3.2 Adoption West

The committee wanted to better understand the governments' policy that requires councils to establish regional adoption agencies by 2010. It is expected that this policy direction will improve chances for children to be adopted, improve support and choice for adopters, and speed up the process for everyone involved. It is important to note that the Education and Adoption Act 2016 gives the Secretary of State for Education the power to require councils to transfer their adoption service into regional arrangements.

The committee was pleased to note that the structure of Adoption West is such that the local connection remains in place. It was felt that the new panel

structure would enable greater flexibility. The North Hub will be based in Gloucester and panel meetings will be held here. Importantly the involvement of elected members in this process will continue.

The committee will want to know that the transition period does not create any problems, for example are we seeing delays, are our adoptions still progressing in a timely manner, are adopters losing confidence? The committee will wish to monitor progress in the new council.

With regard to overall scrutiny of Adoption West each local authority will be able to scrutinise progress; and if it was felt necessary there is also the potential for joint scrutiny with the other local authorities involved.

3.3 Educational Attainment in Secondary Schools in the Forest of Dean Task Group Report

The committee had been concerned, for some time, with regard to educational performance at the secondary level in the Forest of Dean District area. The task group was established to try and get underneath the issues. All bar one of the secondary schools in this area are Academies and it was therefore important to be mindful that these schools are directly funded by and accountable to the Secretary of State for Education, and responsible for their own improvement. The council therefore takes on more of an influencing role.

Task group members visited all bar one of these schools. They were grateful for the welcome and openness with which they were received. The key issues identified through this work are:-

- Finance and falling numbers on roll
- The over-provision of places in the area could be leading to competition rather than collaboration between schools
- The ability to recruit and retain good teachers
- How to change perceptions with regard to individual schools' reputations
- How to address the sense of separation from the wider county
- How to work with the wider community, including families and schools, to further encourage educational ambition and aspiration in the Forest of Dean area.

The task group were mindful of the council's proscribed role with regard to Academies when considering its recommendations. The recommendations therefore identify tasks for the committee in the new council: -

- The task group recommends that with a new council in May 2017 the work of this task group should be used as part of a member development

exercise to inform elected members on how the local authority's role in the provision of education has changed to a more influencing role within the Academy structure.

- The task group recommends that the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee should use this report as a basis for a 'select committee' style meeting with the Regional Schools Commissioner and other stakeholders. The purpose of this meeting will be to draw out any actions/work identified by the RSC to address the educational issues in the Forest of Dean area; and to also understand the wider role of the RSC and the associated powers that go with this role.

The committee accepted these recommendations.

4 Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee (7 March 2017) – Cllr Iain Dobie

4.1. Cleeve Link Update

In light of the closure, last week, of Cleeve Link, one of the council's home care providers, the committee received an update from the Cabinet Member for Older People, the Commissioning Director Adult Social Care and the Deputy Commissioning Director Adult Social Care.

The committee appreciated the goodwill, and commitment, of the Cleeve Link staff, in continuing to deliver care to their customers following the closure, particularly as many of them had not received payment for some weeks. Over the weekend the council had supported these staff by providing free petrol/diesel (via the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service) and food; and has subsequently organised a payroll run to ensure that people were paid. Members were pleased to note that officers were working, with other providers, to ensure that these vulnerable people continue to receive their care in the long term; and that the council was also supporting self-funders through this process.

There were questions as to whether the council should have been aware of this position earlier, and also why did the council not know. The committee was assured that due diligence had been undertaken at the time of the contract being awarded to Cleeve Link. The original owner had sold the business to Primus Medical last year, and following a restructure Primus then decided to sell this part of the business this year. It was sold to a third party on 16 February 2017. The council was informed that this sale would go alongside a capital injection, but this ultimately did not happen. The committee was reminded that it is the CQC's decision as to the registration of a business; and it was the

responsibility of the owner to inform the CQC of their decision to enter into voluntary liquidation.

The committee agreed that, whilst this was an unfortunate situation, it was good to see that all partners across the health and social care landscape in Gloucestershire had come together to ensure that these vulnerable people were safe and supported. The committee will revisit this issue in the new council.

4.2 Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHNHSFT) Financial Position – Update

The committee was pleased to welcome the Chief Executive and Chair of GHNHSFT to the meeting. The Chief Executive apologised that she was not able to present the findings of the financial governance review at this meeting as originally planned. Whilst the committee was frustrated with the delay, members acknowledged that this delay was not of the Trust's making. The report will not now be able to be received by the committee until the new council.

The committee engaged in a robust and detailed discussion of the Trust's current financial position and the recovery plan. The Trust plans to return to a breakeven financial position at the end of March 2019. The committee was, of course, concerned as to the potential impact of the Trust's financial situation on services. In the NHS the funding follows the patient and therefore there is no incentive for the Trust to stop providing services. That is not to say that the Trust will not be looking for opportunities to do things differently/better; and the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG) reminded the committee that the direction of travel described in the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) (self-care, prevention) would affect some services, but emphasised that this was about ensuring the best level of care for the people of Gloucestershire, within the current funding climate.

4.3 South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT) – Update on the Ambulance Response Programme (ARP)

The committee was pleased to welcome the SWASFT Director of Operations to the meeting. The committee was informed that the additional time available under the ARP to triage calls has meant better identification of which calls require an 8 minute response, and the despatch of the clinically appropriate vehicle rather than the nearest. Sheffield University has undertaken a review of the ARP and the final report is in the process of being prepared. If a recommendation in the ARP report is to permanently change the target framework, and this is approved by the Secretary of State for Health, this will require Parliamentary approval.

SWASFT has been consulting staff on changes to the working rota. This consultation in the North Division (which includes Gloucestershire) is complete and the changes will be implemented in April 2017. The changes are to ensure that there is the right number of staff on at the right time and in the right place, to better manage peak demands. Alongside this there is a re-profiling of vehicles in Gloucestershire. This will mean that there will be 16 more double crewed ambulances (DCAs) with a reduction in the number of rapid response vehicles. This re-profiling has been undertaken to better meet demand. SWASFT continues to work with the GCCG on demand management.

Going forward it will be important that the committee monitors performance against targets to ascertain whether the rota changes and the re-profiling of vehicles are delivering the expected outcomes.

4.4. Non Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS) – Update

The NEPTS is provided by Arriva Transport Solutions Ltd (ATSL) and the committee was joined by the Managing Director, Head of Patient Transport Services South, Locality Manager Gloucestershire, and Communications and Engagement Manager.

Performance against targets continues to present a mixed picture. This picture is reflected across the country which suggests that some of the problems are systemic rather than local or specific to any particular provider. Nationally providers are leaving this market and the service is funded on a very tight margin.

ATSL have been subject to an unannounced inspection by the CQC. ATSL welcomed the inspection and were pleased with the outcome. An action plan is in place to take forward the recommendations from the inspection.

The briefing provided to committee members identifies the significant challenges to the service. It was disappointing to note that a significant number of aborted journeys result from patients cancelling their hospital appointment but not their transport, or making their own way to the hospital but not cancelling their transport. A text reminder service is being introduced this month and it is hoped that this will help to reduce these wasted journeys. It was agreed that better communication with patients is required to ensure that they understand the importance of cancelling their transport if it is not required. ATSL also intend to hold a workshop with the GHNHSFT and this will include the impact of aborted journeys on the system. The committee will continue to monitor this service.

5 Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (8 March 2017) - Cllr Rob Bird

5.1 Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee

At the Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 11 January 2017, Head of Gloucestershire Joint Waste Service, Steve Read, and Chairman of the Gloucestershire Joint Waste Committee, Cllr Sue Coakley, gave a detailed presentation on the work of the committee, plus an update on the county's recycling rates.

The update took into account the 'waste' motion considered at the Gloucestershire County Council meeting on 14 September 2016, and the request for the *'Joint Waste Committee to consider ways in which the county's recycling rates could be improved'*.

Following an in-depth and comprehensive discussion, members commended the enthusiasm of the waste team in promoting recycling initiatives across the whole of Gloucestershire, and spoke in support of the continued work of the Joint Waste Committee. The committee noted that the Joint Waste Committee endeavoured to work closely and cooperatively with all authorities, and was committed at looking at more effective ways of recycling and in sending out positive messages to residents about the benefits of recycling and reuse. The committee acknowledged there was still a long way to go in achieving some of the key objectives.

Key messages from the discussion included; i) a recommendation that the County Council support a proposal for the Joint Waste Committee to review key performance indicators, focussing specifically on the introduction of a performance indicator relating to residual waste arisings; ii) promoting an integrated waste service across Gloucestershire; iii) that the Joint Waste Committee review current systems and practices to identify shortfalls and improvements for the future and, iv) that the committee consider what opportunities there might be to avoid potential disparities in delivering services to communities located across the boundaries of more than one district authority.

The Head of Service and Cllr Coakley welcomed the committee's comments, including the proposal that Gloucestershire County Council support a change in Key Performance Indicators and a request that the council lobby Government to encourage more 'producer responsibility' when responding to the growing cost of recycling durable items, including food and drink cartons. The overall consensus of opinion at the meeting, and fundamental proposal, was that the

Joint Committee endeavour to create a single and integrated waste service for Gloucestershire.

Please refer to the report at Appendix 3 which provides a response to Council motion 777 relating to improving recycling rates.

5.2 Chief Fire Officer Report

The committee received a report from Stewart Edgar, Chief Fire Officer, detailing information on the portfolio of services provided by the Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council. Please refer to the following link to view the report.

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=673&MId=8401&Ver=4>

In response to concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding the increase in the number of house fires caused by some domestic appliances, (tumble dryers), the Chief Fire Officer advised that 'Whirlpool' had recently reviewed it's earlier position and was now advising consumers to unplug affected models and not use before modification of the appliance had taken place. Full details of the advice can be found on the Whirlpool website at the following link:

<http://www.arla.co.uk/news/february-2017/whirlpool-tumble-dryers-the-latest-safety-advice.aspx>

Having attended the LGA Annual Fire Exhibition and Conference in Gateshead the previous day, (7 March 2017), the Chief Fire Officer updated members on issues relating to the 'Policing and Crime Act 2017: Emergency Services Collaboration', which had received Royal Assent on 31 January 2017. In noting the information, it was agreed the Chief Fire Officer would provide regular updates to all members, commencing with a detailed briefing paper and presentation to the Environment and Communities Scrutiny Committee at the first meeting of the new committee on 14 June 2017.

5.3 Motion 769 – Registration Service

Members received a progress report on the outcome of Council Motion 769, (Registration Service), considered at the 11 May 2016 council meeting. The progress report was welcomed by all/cross party members. Cllr Graham Morgan, (mover of the motion), was particularly pleased with the improved performance of the service and the positive actions taken in response to the motion.

5.4 Task Group Reviews

Members received progress reports on the progress of the task group reviews relating to i) Climate Change; ii) Access to and from and the Forest of Dean; and iii) A429 Fosse Way. Chairmen of the task groups, Cllrs Sarah Lunnon, Patrick Molyneux and Paul Hodgkinson were invited to comment on the progress of the reviews, and Cabinet Member: Fire, Planning and Infrastructure, Cllr Nigel Moor, responded to questions. Further reviews to be considered by the new committee at future meetings.

5.5 Work Plan

Members reviewed the work of the committee over the course of the current council and suggested items for review by the new committee post the County Council elections on 4 May 2017. Items proposed for future scrutiny included: i) Issues relating to the Policing and Crime Act 2017: Emergency Services Collaboration; ii) Extension of the Highways Contract 2017; iii) Advice from Gloucestershire County Council, (as Lead Local Flood Authority), to Local Planning Authorities; iv) Infrastructure Planning.

The new committee to also receive updates on Council Motion 722 – Highways Customer Satisfaction Survey; Council Motion 787 – Pavements; and the Air Quality Schools Project, (following a question from Cllr Sarah Lunnon at the full council meeting on 17 February 2016).

6 Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee (23 February 2016) – Cllr Joe Harris

6.1 Vision 2050

Jennie Evans, Lead Officer for the Vision 2050 Project, presented an overview on the background and scope of the project, including a summary of current activities and an update on the progress of the Draft Gloucestershire 2050 Vision Document.

Conceived from discussions highlighting the need to produce a long-term economic development plan for Gloucestershire, the G2050 Project Steering Group was established to i) look at proposals and initiatives to consider where Gloucestershire, as a county, aspired to be in 30 years time, and ii) assess the impact of anticipated major changes during this time.

Seeking the committee's views on potential schemes for delivering the aspirations of the 2050 Vision Project, the presenting officer agreed to feed back

to the steering group when submitting the Draft Gloucestershire 2050 Vision Document for approval.

Key messages from the discussion included; concerns about the democratic structure for Gloucestershire; the impact and influences of an 'ever-changing environment; the relevancy of current issues in comparison with issues prevalent in 30 years time; potential technological advances in the transport network; and the demands of meeting the needs of an ageing society.

The committee expressed concern about the perceived inadequacies of the current two-tier governance system for Gloucestershire and the idiosyncrasies of the local authority decision making process.

Questioning the role and function of Leadership Gloucestershire as the vehicle for steering the Vision 2050 Project, members upheld reservations expressed at previous meetings about the relationship between the scrutiny committee and the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee. The concerns to be considered in more depth at the committee meeting on 15 March 2017.

6.2 Growth Deal Funding Announcement

Commissioning Director: Communities and Infrastructure updated members on a government announcement made earlier that day, confirming the award of £29.13m funding to GFirst LEP in the latest round of Growth Deal funding.

The Commissioning Director informed members that, when considering the bid, the government had chosen to award funding that would enable Gfirst LEP to deliver the top three prioritised projects within the submission. These included; the Longford Housing Project: £4.53 million; the Cyber Park Project: £22 million and the Forest of Dean Campus Project: £2.6 million

The total allocation of funding at the end of the third round of the Growth Deal submission currently stands at £106.6 million.

6.3 Community Pub Task Group

In response to a motion at the Gloucestershire County Council meeting in November 2014, a 'Pub is the Hub' workshop was held at Shire Hall on 6 March 2017. The workshop was attended by District and Parish Councillors from the Cotswold, Stroud and Forest of Dean Districts with an interest in promoting the extended and wider use of licensed premises within their areas to meet the needs of the local community. Pub is the Hub received a positive response to the offer of providing financial assistance and advice. It was suggested

Community Engagement Officers from the relevant authorities be invited to participate in future activities.

7. Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel – Cllr Roger Wilson

At the meeting on 14 March, the Panel will be considering the following items:

7.1 Chief Constable Vacancy

In January it was announced that Chief Constable Davenport would be retiring in April. Members were informed that the Police and Crime Commissioner had taken the decision to hold the post vacant for the time being and had asked DCC Rod Hansen to fulfil the role as Temporary Chief Constable. The Chief Executive of the Commissioner's Office stated that this was legislated for in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (2011) S.41 (subsections (1) and (11)).

The Panel will be carrying out their scrutiny role at the meeting, looking to understand the thinking behind the decision that has been taken.

7.2. PEEL Inspection reports

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary had released its latest Leadership and Legitimacy reports in December 2016. Regarding Legitimacy report, Gloucestershire was rated as 'requiring improvement, a down grading from last years 'good'. On 2 March, the Inspectorate published its reports relating to Effectiveness. It assessed how well the Constabulary keeps people in Gloucestershire safe from harm and what it is doing to keep crime down. The report stated that the Constabulary 'requires improvement'. The Constabulary has challenged the findings, requesting that consideration be given to the re-grading in light of the year on year reductions in crime in Gloucestershire.

The Panel will be discussing how the Police and Crime Commissioner will be holding the Constabulary to account and what improvement plans will be put in place.

7.3 Community Safety Review

The Panel will be provided with an update of progress following the review carried out in September 2016. The report can be viewed at:

<http://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/documents/s36119/GCSR%20Final%20Report%20-%20Version%207.pdf>