

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2015

Introduction

Following the decision by Councillor Hutchinson to stand down from the role of vice chair of Scrutiny, due to his involvement in two newly formed internal groups which may create a perceived conflict of interest, Councillor Richard Priest was elected vice chairman of the committee at the scrutiny meeting held on 10 September 2015.

Broadband

At the same meeting the Committee was provided with an update on progress with the delivery of the rural broadband project. Whilst it was pleasing to note how the project was advancing on the Island when compared with the rest of the country, there were concerns expressed about the independent measurement used. Details of this have therefore been requested and the final outcomes will be looked at again six months after project completion to see if expectations have been fully delivered.

Children's Services

The scrutiny committee also endorsed an item on the agenda of full Council which is a recommendation relating to changing the current terms of reference of both the Scrutiny Committee and Children's Services Select Committee so that a Children's Committee is formed with overview and scrutiny functions in accordance with the terms of reference attached.

Transport Infrastructure

There was discussion on the motion agreed at full council on 19 November 2014 relating to the Island's Transport System. As a result of this discussion the committee encouraged those members whose wards include Islandline would be involved in the drafting of a response by the Council to the statement by the Department of Transport. The Committee also strongly urged the Island's Member of Parliament to fully develop a transport infrastructure task force for the Island with the Department for Transport and the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership and recommended that the Council assist him in his endeavours to achieve this where finances are available.

Planning

The Committee also received an overview of current delivery of planning services following the recent re-structure. This topic remains on our work plan as an area for proactive scrutiny and members will be seeking feedback from relevant stakeholders and partners before further examination at a future meeting.

Councillor Dave Stewart
Chairman of Scrutiny Committee

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2015

The sub committee, at its meeting on 14 September 2015, discussed performance in adult social care for quarter one together with the outcomes contained in the national adult social care framework for 2013/14.

Members have on-going concerns as to the frequency, and impact that black alerts at St Mary's Hospital were having. A number of questions have been supplied to both the Trust and Clinical Commissioning Group aimed at gaining a fuller understanding of the background to such instances. In addition a representative from the Care Quality Commission will be invited to a future meeting to enable a debate about inspection and standards of residential and nursing homes.

An excellent report has been published by Healthwatch Isle of Wight on the complaints process in GP surgeries and also at St Mary's Hospital. The Committee will monitor the actions being taken on the recommendations contained in the report.

Councillor Richard Priest
Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Sub Committee