

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2015

Budget

The Committee is currently focussed on various aspects of the delivery of the planned budget savings for 2015/16. A number of areas where projected savings will not be achieved have been identified and it is necessary to understand the reasons for this so as to be able to assist with the budget process for 2016/17. It is essential that a budget is based on a realistic and sound footing if it is to be delivered and a key element of scrutiny is to examine this aspect.

Additionally the approach to managing the council's strategic assets is also being scrutinised which could further assist with the challenges of the budget and identify opportunities for future income generation.

As part of the committee's look at the budget it will also hear at its December meeting from the relevant executive member and officer responsible for delivering transformation and organisational change required as part of the overall budget strategy. Work is currently underway to research and scrutinise progress with the organisational change programme and a report will be presented and considered at the next meeting together with an opportunity for members to discuss progress with the executive member and lead officer.

Performance

The latest quarterly performance outcomes will also be considered at the December committee meeting. Members will want to be assured that services are being delivered effectively and efficiently and at the standard expected by users. Given the past experience of contract management arrangements for the Highway PFI, this is also something that the committee is keeping a close watch on and at the next meeting members will be receiving and scrutinising processes in place for monitoring and management of the new waste contract.

Planning

As part of the committee's ongoing pro active review of delivery of planning services, following the recent departmental re-structure, feedback is currently being sought from a substantial number of relevant stakeholders and partners. In due course it is intended that a small representative number of those who respond will then be invited to attend a future meeting of the scrutiny committee to enable their views to be further explored. The desired outcome being recommendations that will help to enhance provision of this essential area of service delivery by the council.

**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, 25 NOVEMBER 2015

The sub committee, at its meeting on 16 November 2015, discussed plans being put into place to deal with the challenges being faced by the health and social care system in service delivery including the winter period. The processes and actions will be carefully monitored to ensure that the needs of patients and clients are fully met.

Members considered the annual report for adult social care complaints. This showed that the number received had remained at a high level compared to 2012/13. An outline was given of the lessons learnt. The sub committee is encouraging a greater liaison with Healthwatch and the IWNHS Trust on the approach to complaints to see what common areas can be addressed.

In being advised of Healthwatch's Isle of Wight priorities for 2015/16, members noted that this included a review of the quality of care within residential care and nursing homes. This is of major importance given the recent report that the Island was ranked bottom of the league table for the quality of care provided. I have met with representatives of the Care Quality Commission, who is responsible for inspecting the quality of homes, together with colleagues from Healthwatch, to discuss the situation and gain a better insight into the issues identified in the inspection process.

The sub committee is also looking at the budget difficulties faced by both adult social care and public health. Despite the increased demands placed upon services, the Council needs to ensure that this is kept within the budget as unlike health partners we are unable to have a deficit at the year end. It is important however that despite the budget constraints service delivery is of a good quality.

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

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE
TO THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
ON WEDNESDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 2015**

The committee held its first meeting with a scrutiny function on 16 November 2015. The work of the Isle of Wight Youth Offending Team and the Youth Justice Plan 2015/16 was considered. The primary aim of the youth justice system, YOT statutory functions, and prevention/support services were explored. The financial pressures the service faces as a result of cuts to central government funding to all partners were concerning and the committee has asked to be kept informed of any issues or further cuts.

Members reviewed the Isle of Wight's educational inclusion performance. Key metrics included data relating to absence, persistent absence and exclusion in the Island's primary and secondary schools. The improvement seen in previous years appeared to have lost momentum and will need to be carefully monitored. Members would review more in-depth figures with officers.

The committee reflected on the outline of the Early Help service offer delivered by Barnardo's and the performance data for quarter one of the contract. Performance was measured, not just on numbers, but also on the positive changes and better outcomes for families. The committee was pleased to note the issues raised by schools and local providers were being addressed.

An update was received on the concerns relating to safeguarding in Island language schools. The chair of the Local Area Safeguarding Board had received confirmation that the Department of Education would look into the matter.

Members also agreed they would look into alternatives to the current Home to School transport provision following a briefing from officers.

**Councillor Conrad Gauntlett
Chairman of the Children's Committee**