

West Devon Overview and Scrutiny Committee



West Devon
Borough
Council

Title:	Agenda														
Date:	Tuesday, 8th October, 2019														
Time:	2.00 pm														
Venue:	Chamber - Kilworthy Park														
Full Members:	<p style="text-align: center;">Chairman Cllr Ewings Vice Chairman Cllr Kimber</p> <p><i>Members:</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Cllr Ball</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Cllr Musgrave</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Bolton</td> <td>Cllr Ratcliffe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Coulson</td> <td>Cllr Ridgers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Daniel</td> <td>Cllr Southcott</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Heyworth</td> <td>Cllr Spettigue</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Kemp</td> <td>Cllr Wood</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Moyse</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Cllr Ball	Cllr Musgrave	Cllr Bolton	Cllr Ratcliffe	Cllr Coulson	Cllr Ridgers	Cllr Daniel	Cllr Southcott	Cllr Heyworth	Cllr Spettigue	Cllr Kemp	Cllr Wood	Cllr Moyse	
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Cllr Daniel	Cllr Southcott														
Cllr Heyworth	Cllr Spettigue														
Cllr Kemp	Cllr Wood														
Cllr Moyse															
Interests – Declaration and Restriction on Participation:	Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest not entered in the Authority's register or local non pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda (subject to the exception for sensitive information) and to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on an item in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest.														
Committee administrator:	Member.Services@swdevon.gov.uk														

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Confirmation of Minutes - Meeting held 3 September 2019 **1 - 10**

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are invited to declare any personal or disclosable pecuniary interests, including the nature and extent of such interests they may have in any items to be considered at this meeting.

If Councillors have any questions relating to predetermination, bias or interests in items on this Agenda, then please contact the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4. Items Requiring Urgent Attention

To consider those items which, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered by the Meeting as matters of urgency

5. Public Forum **11 - 12**

A period of up to 15 minutes is available to deal with issues raised by the public.

6. Hub Committee Forward Plan **13 - 16**

If any Member seeks further clarity, or wishes to raise issues regarding any future Hub Committee agenda item, please contact Member Services before **5.00pm on Thursday, 3 October 2019** to ensure that the lead officer(s) are aware of this request in advance of the meeting.

7. A386 Transport Corridor/Tavistock Rail: Verbal Update following last Committee Meeting (Minute *O&S 26 refers)

8. Joint Local Plan: Quarterly Update -Verbal Update

9. Financial Stability Review Group - Member Briefing Note **17 - 18**

10. Task & Finish Group Updates:

(a)Leisure Review

11. Annual Work Programme 2019/20

19 - 20

12. Member Learning and Development Opportunities Arising from this Meeting

This document can be made available in large print, Braille, tape format, other languages or alternative format upon request. Please contact the Committee section on 01822 813662 or email darryl.white@swdevon.gov.uk

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Agenda Item 2

At a Meeting of the **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held at the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Kilworthy Park, Drake Road, **TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the **3rd** day of **SEPTEMBER 2019** at **2.00 pm**.

Present:

Cllr M Ewings – Chairman
Cllr P Kimber – Vice Chairman

Cllr K Ball	Cllr A Coulson
Cllr L Daniel	Cllr C Kemp
Cllr D Moyse	Cllr C R Musgrave
Cllr B Ratcliffe	Cllr P J Ridgers
Cllr T Southcott	Cllr J Spettigue
Cllr L Wood	

Chief Executive
Group Manager – Support Services and Customer First
Senior Specialist – Democratic Services
Head of Place Making Practice
Specialist – Assets
Commissioning Manager
Planning Enforcement Officer

Also in Attendance:

Cllrs R Cheadle, P Crozier, C Edmonds, S Hipsey, N Jory, T Leech, J Moody, C Mott, T Pearce, M Renders and J Yelland

***O&S 22**

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence for this meeting were received from Cllrs T Bolton and N Heyworth.

***O&S 23**

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 9 July 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

***O&S 24**

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and officers were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of this meeting but there was none made.

Whilst not wishing to declare an interest, Cllr K Ball did wish for it to be noted that, in respect of agenda item 6: 'Tavistock – Bere Alston Update: Presentation' (Minute *O&S 26 below refers), he was a Devon County Councillor (DCC) who knew both of the DCC Transport Planning Officers in attendance.

***O&S 25 HUB COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN**

The Chairman informed that no prior requests had been received for updates on any future Hub Committee agenda items at this meeting.

***O&S 26 TAVISTOCK - BERE ALSTON UPDATE: PRESENTATION**

Representatives from Devon County Council Transport Planning conducted a presentation to the Committee that provided an update on potential infrastructure improvements in the Tavistock area.

In the ensuing debate, reference was made to:-

- (a) the cost breakdown of the reinstatement of a railway from Tavistock to Bere Alston. In response to a number of Members expressing their concerns that the cost projections of reinstatement had now risen to £93 million, it was agreed that a breakdown of these figures would be provided to all Members;
- (b) accessing funding from Central Government. The representatives highlighted some of the potential solutions (e.g. the use of autonomous or electric buses) and advised the meeting that Central Government funding tended to be more readily available for innovative and original infrastructure concepts;
- (c) a report that considered the benefits between a light and heavy rail solution in the area. In response to a request, the representatives agreed to circulate a copy of the report that had been produced;
- (d) the Okehampton to Exeter rail route. It was confirmed that the progress of the rail route would have a positive impact on the Tavistock to Bere Alston proposals and a number of lessons learned could be taken forward;
- (e) the opportunity for a segregated cycle route to be created adjacent to the busy A386. Members expressed their support for feasibility options (including the segregated cycle route proposals) to be further investigated;
- (f) the data source. When questioned, it was confirmed that the 2011 Census was the data source that was applied for a number of the projections. In reply, some Members wished to make the point that data such as population figures and commuter trends and statistics had significantly changed since 2011;
- (g) the Dawlish to Teignmouth rail line. The representatives emphasised that the clear steer from Central Government was that its focus was on improving the resilience of the existing Dawlish to Teignmouth rail line.

As a consequence, it was recognised that there was no Central Government appetite to establish an alternative rail route across Dartmoor and DCC was therefore focusing its efforts on progressing local routes such as Okehampton to Exeter.

DCC representatives confirmed that, at present, they were not actively lobbying Central Government to reinstate the Tavistock to Bere Alston rail line and their top priorities were currently:

1. funding the remainder of the Dawlish to Teignmouth rail line;
2. improving mobile connectivity was travelling by rail; and
3. creating a diversionary route around the Exeter Waterloo line;

In response, some Members highlighted the constant changes at Central Government and requested that DCC increase its lobbying efforts to ensure that funding was made available for the Tavistock to Bere Alston line;

In conclusion, the Committee thanked the representatives for their presentation and informative responses. Such was the importance of this matter that Members requested that a further update be given to the Committee meeting on 7 April 2020. In the meantime, it was felt that Member Workshops should be convened to consider the infrastructure requirements across the whole of the Borough with the views of the Council then being forwarded to DCC before the next update was considered.

It was then:

RESOLVED

1. That the DCC representatives be invited to provide a further update to the Committee at its meeting on 7 April 2020; and
2. That Member Workshops be convened to consider the infrastructure requirements across the whole of the Borough with the views of the Council then being forwarded to DCC before the next update was considered.

***O&S 27**

PUBLIC FORUM

Whilst no formal requests had been received in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Chairman exercised her discretion to permit a member of the public to make a brief statement.

In so doing, Mr Paul Richardson advised that:-

- he considered it unwise to believe that all of the Section 106 monies would be forthcoming for the Callington Road, Tavistock site;

- he felt that there was a need for an Autonomous Guided Vehicle Strategy to be adopted. In reinforcing the point made by the DCC representatives, Mr Richardson advised that such initiatives could attract innovation funding and tap into new funding sources.

The Committee concluded that the points raised by Mr Richardson should be given consideration during the Member Workshops that had just been approved (Minute *O&S 26 above refers).

***O&S 28 FUSION UPDATE AND FEEDBACK ON THEIR CASHLESS PROJECT**

Representatives from Fusion Leisure conducted a presentation that outlined their cashless project proposals that were to come into effect on 1 October 2019. During their presentation, the representatives expressed their apologies to Members for the late notification and poor communication strategy that had prompted this agenda item.

In discussion, the following points were raised:-

- (a) It was confirmed that these proposals included the on-site café facilities becoming cashless;
- (b) With regard to the established Customer Forums at Meadowlands and Parklands, representatives confirmed that they would check outside the meeting whether or not these proposals were considered. A local Ward Member stated that, since the Parklands Forum had not met for a long term, he could confirm that these proposals had not been presented to this Body;
- (c) As part of the next phase, the representatives confirmed that they would be reviewing the management of the reception areas within the leisure centres and the merits of centre vending machines also becoming cashless;
- (d) Whilst reward cards were very user friendly, some Members did wish to point out there would still be a detrimental impact on some of the most vulnerable groups in the Borough. In response to a specific question, the representatives assured the meeting that it was possible for a single activity to be purchased and added to a reward card;
- (e) The Committee endorsed the suggestion that a Task and Finish Group should be established to undertake a review of the relationship between Fusion and our local communities.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That a Task and Finish Group (comprising of Cllrs Daniel, Ewings, Musgrave, Spettigue and Wood) be established to undertake a review of the relationship between Fusion and our local communities, with a concluding report being presented to the Committee meeting on 14 January 2020 before Fusion representatives present their annual report to the Committee meeting on 25 February 2020.

***O&S 29 CALL-IN OF THE HUB COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON MINUTE *HC 15: 'NORTHERN OUTREACH'**

The Chairman introduced this agenda item and highlighted that, in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, three Members of the Committee had invoked a Call-in on Hub Committee Minute HC 15 'Northern Outreach'.

Upon the conclusion of the debate on the Call-in, the Chairman advised that there would be three options available to the Committee. These were:

1. that the Committee was content with the original Hub Committee resolution and the decision would therefore take immediate effect;
2. that the Committee refer the decision back to the next Hub Committee meeting (on 10 September 2019) for further consideration; and
3. that the Committee opt to refer the decision to the next full Council meeting (on 17 September 2019).

At this point, the Chairman invited the Member who was representing the three signatories of the Call-in to explain their reasoning behind this decision. In so doing, the Member made particular reference to:-

- the main concerns relating to the ability of local communities in the north of the Borough to access the Council and its services. As a result, the Members were strongly of the view that the withdrawal of the northern outreach service should be considered at the same time as the proposed option appraisal on the future of Tavistock Reception. Whilst not his own personal belief, the Member stressed that there was a widespread view amongst residents living in the north of the Borough that the Council was too Tavistock orientated and he requested that the need for the Council to take steps to overcome this perception be noted;
- the Hub Committee being divided when making its original decision;
- a number of residents were not digitally enabled and, whilst improvements had been made, there did remain some issues with call waiting times in the Contact Centre;
- it was the wish of the signatories for the original Hub Committee decision to be referred to the Council for further consideration at its meeting on 17 September 2019.

The Chairman then proceeded to invite the lead Hub Committee Member for Customer First to respond to the points raised. During which, the lead Member informed that:-

- great strides had been made to Contact Centre performance and the Council website;
- Mobile Locality Officers would continue to offer to carry out personal visits to vulnerable residents;
- the current Northern Outreach service did not represent good value for money. In support of this statement, the lead Member advised that it was costing £8,000 per year to resource the outreach office one day each week and, as a guide in August 2019, there had been only 11 visits, with the majority of the enquiries raised not relevant to the Borough Council;
- he had recently attended a meeting with the Vice-Chairman of the Committee and the lead officer at Okehampton Library to discuss the possibility of the facility providing a signposting service for the Borough Council. Upon the conclusion of this meeting, the Library representatives had confirmed that they would be happy to provide a signposting service.

During the ensuing debate, the following points were raised:-

- (a) Some Members were of the view that there was a general lack of awareness that the current outreach service was in existence. In addition, the local ward Members stated that they had previously been discouraged from promoting the service. To counter these comments, the lead Hub Committee Member stated that, in his opinion, the outreach service had been well publicised via Council press releases (that had subsequently been picked up by both the Okehampton Times and Devon Live) and a poster being on prominent display in the previous office window at James' Street, Okehampton;
- (b) Local Ward Members expressed their disappointment that they had not been made aware of the meeting that had recently been held at Okehampton Library;
- (c) Support was expressed for the point made by the call-in signatories whereby the withdrawal of the northern outreach service should be considered at the same time as the proposed option appraisal on the future of Tavistock Reception. Moreover, a number of Members felt that the decision should be referred to the Council meeting on 17 September 2019 for further consideration.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That the Committee has debated the Call-in on Hub Committee Minute HC 15 'Northern Outreach' and requests that it be considered at the next Council meeting on 17 September 2019.

O&S 30 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN REVIEW

The Committee considered a report that recommended that the Hub Committee approve:

- an updated Enforcement Plan;
- a Harm Assessment Matrix;
- a draft Enforcement Plan.

In addition, the report also requested that the Council ultimately approve a proposal to recruit an additional two permanent members of staff for Planning Enforcement.

During the debate, the following points were raised:-

- (a) The Committee was reminded that performance measures related to Planning Enforcement were formally presented to the Development Management and Licensing Committee and published with the relevant agenda papers;
- (b) Such was the reputational importance of the planning enforcement service that Members emphasised their support for the proposal to increase staffing levels in this area;
- (c) To help the service, the lead Hub Committee advised fellow Members that it was vitally important for them (and their local town and parish councils) to provide Enforcement Officers with as much accurate detail as was practically possible on cases within their wards.

It was then:

RECOMMENDED

That the Hub Committee be **RECOMMENDED** that:-

1. the updated Enforcement Plan; the Harm Assessment Matrix; and the proposed Enforcement Action Plan each be approved; and

2. Council be **RECOMMENDED** that the additional two permanent staff for Planning Enforcement be approved to be funded from the Planning Earmarked Reserve in 2019/20 and to be built into the Budget Setting process as a cost pressure for 2020/21 onwards.

***O&S 31 CUSTOMER SATISFACTION ACTION PLAN PROGRESS**

The lead Hub Committee Member for Customer First introduced a report that detailed the progress that had been made since June 2019 on improving customer satisfaction levels.

During his introduction, the lead Member asked that colleagues critically evaluate all aspects of the Council website before making their views known to him or the Commissioning Manager. To increase awareness, it was also requested that an article be included to this effect in a future edition of the Members' Bulletin.

With no further questions or issues being raised, it was then:

RESOLVED

That the Committee notes:

1. the progress made to date in improving customer satisfaction (as set out in section 3 of the presented agenda report); and
2. the next steps (as outlined in section 5 of the presented agenda report).

***O&S 32 FINANCIAL STABILITY REVIEW GROUP UPDATE**

The Chairman informed that monthly meetings had now been arranged for the remainder of the 2019/20 Municipal Year, with the first meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 24 September 2019 at 1.30pm.

***O&S 33 TASK AND FINISH GROUP UPDATES**

Members noted that there were no active Task and Finish Groups at this present time.

***O&S 34 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

The Committee considered the latest version of its Work Programme for the 2019/20 Municipal Year. In discussion, it was confirmed that the Work Programme would be amended to reflect the decisions to request an update from Devon County Council Transport Planning representatives (Minute *O&S 26 above refers) and to establish a Leisure Task and Finish Group (Minute *O&S 28 above refers) at future Committee meetings.

***O&S 21 MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARISING FROM THE MEETING**

The Committee was reminded of the request for Member Workshops to be convened to consider the infrastructure requirements across the whole of the Borough (Minute *O&S 26 above refers).

In addition, the Chairman of the Member Development Steering Group informed that the first meeting of the Group was to be arranged in the next few months to give consideration to the review of the 2019 Member Induction Programme and the future Member Learning and Development Programme.

In reply to a question, it was noted that the issue of meeting and briefing start times would be considered, in the first instance, at the next meeting of the Political Structures Working Group.

(The meeting terminated at 5.30 pm)

Chairman

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PUBLIC FORUM PROCEDURES

(a) General

Members of the public may raise issues and ask questions at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This session will last for up to fifteen minutes at the beginning of each meeting, with any individual speaker having a maximum of three minutes to address the Committee.

(b) Notice of Questions

An issue or question may only be raised by a member of the public provided that they have given written notice (which may be by electronic mail) to Darryl White (darryl.white@swdevon.gov.uk) by 5.00pm on the Thursday, prior to the relevant meeting.

(c) Scope of Questions

An issue may be rejected by the Monitoring Officer if:

- it relates to a matter within the functions of the Planning and Licensing Committee;
- it is not about a matter for which the local authority has a responsibility or which affects the district;
- it is offensive, frivolous or defamatory;
- it is substantially the same as a question which has previously been put in the past six months; or
- it requires the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

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WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL: HUB COMMITTEE FORWARD PLAN

This is the provisional forward plan for the four months starting October 2019. It provides an indicative date for matters to be considered by the Hub Committee. Where possible, the Hub Committee will keep to the dates shown in the plan. However, it may be necessary for some items to be rescheduled and other items added.

The forward plan is published to publicise consultation dates and enable dialogue between the Hub Committee and all councillors, the public and other stakeholders. It will also assist the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in planning their contribution to policy development and holding the Hub Committee to account.

The Plan is published on the Council's website (www.westdevon.gov.uk)

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings of the Hub Committee, which are normally held at Kilworthy Park, Tavistock, and normally start at 2.00 pm. If advance notice has been given, questions can be put to the Hub Committee at the beginning of the meeting.

The Hub Committee consists of nine Councillors. Each has responsibility for a particular area of the Council's work.

Leader – Cllr Neil Jory

Deputy Leader – Cllr Lois Samuel

Lead Member for Environment – Cllr Caroline Mott

Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing – Cllr Tony Leech

Lead Member for Enterprise – Cllr Ric Cheadle

Lead Member for Communities – Cllr Terry Pearce

Lead Member for Customer First – Cllr Jeff Moody

Lead Member for Resources and Performance – Cllr Chris Edmonds

Lead Member for Homes – Cllr Debo Sellis

Further information on the workings of the Hub Committee, including latest information on agenda items, can be obtained by contacting the Democratic Services Section by e-mail to democratic.services@westdevon.gov.uk

All items listed in this Forward Plan will be discussed in public at the relevant meeting, unless otherwise indicated

Portfolio Area	Report Title and Summary	Lead Officer/ Member	Documents to be considered in making decision	Date of Meeting	Consultees and means of consultation
Environment (Joint Local Plan)	Title: Supplementary Planning Documents to the JLP Purpose of Report: To seek approval to circulate the draft documents for consultation	Richard Grant/Cllr Mott	Report of Strategic Planning Manager (Joint Local Plan)	5 November 2019	First consultation with Partnership Board and then all Member Workshop
Communities/Wellbeing	Title: Partnership Funding Levels 2020/21 Purpose of the report: To decide funding levels for the next three years	Nadine Trout/ Cllr Pearce and Cllr Leech	Report of Commissioning Manager	5 November 2019	
Customer First	Title: Outreach Purpose of the report: To report on the latest position in respect of Outreach services provided by the Council	Nadine Trout/ Cllr Moody	Report of the Deputy Commissioning Manager	5 November 2019	
Communities/Wellbeing	Title: Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2020/21 Purpose of the report: It is an annual requirement for the Council to revisit its existing council tax support scheme	Issy Blake/ Cllr Pearce & Cllr Leech	Report of Head of Housing, Revenues and Benefits Practice	5 November 2019	
Enterprise	Title: Formation of a wholly owned company Purpose of Report: To consider the formation of a wholly owned company to facilitate commercial activity	C Brook/ Cllr Cheadle	Report of Head of Assets	3 December 2019	
Council	Title: Report of the Political Structures Working Group Purpose of Report: To update Members on the outcome of the Political Structures Working Group meeting and recommendations	Kathy Trant/Cllr Jory	Report of Political Structures Working Group	5 November 2019	

Portfolio Area	Report Title and Summary	Lead Officer/ Member	Documents to be considered in making decision	Date of Meeting	Consultees and means of consultation
Leader & Enterprise	Title: Accommodation Strategy Purpose of report: To make recommendations for a future accommodation strategy	C Brook/ Cllr Jory and Cllr Cheadle	Report of Head of Assets	5 November 2019	Accommodation Strategy Working Group
Environment (Joint Local Plan)	Title: Statement of Community Involvement Purpose of Report: To seek authority to go out to consultation on the Statement of Community Involvement	Richard Grant/Cllr Mott	Report of Strategic Planning Manager (Joint Local Plan)	5 November 2019	
Council Page 15	Title: Budget Update report, including the announcement on the one-year Spending Review for 2020-21 Purpose: To update Members on the anticipated Government announcement on the One Year Spending Review for 2020-21	Lisa Buckle/Cllr Jory	Report of s151 Officer	5 November 2019	
Council	Title: Write Off Report for Quarter 2 Purpose of report: The Council is responsible for the collection of: Housing Rents, Sundry Debts including Housing Benefit Overpayments, Council Tax and National Non-Domestic Rates. The report informs members of the debt written off for these revenue streams.	Lisa Buckle/ Cllr Edmonds	Report of s151 Officer	3 December 2019	
Council	Title: Revenue Budget Monitoring Quarter 2 Purpose of report: A revenue budget monitoring report to monitor income and	Pauline Henstock/	Report of Head of Finance Practice	3 December 2019	

Portfolio Area	Report Title and Summary	Lead Officer/ Member	Documents to be considered in making decision	Date of Meeting	Consultees and means of consultation
	expenditure variations against the approved revenue budget for 2019/20, and to provide a forecast of the year end position	Cllr Edmonds			
Council	Title: Capital Budget Monitoring Quarter 2 Purpose of report: The report advises Members of the progress on individual schemes within the approved capital programme for 2019/20, including an assessment of their financial position	Pauline Henstock/ Cllr Edmonds	Report of Head of Finance Practice	3 December 2019	
Council Page 10	Title: Draft Revenue Budget Proposals 2020/21 Purpose: To present draft budget proposals for 2020/21	Lisa Buckle/Cllr Jory	Report of s151 Officer	3 December 2019	
Council	Title: Draft Capital Programme Proposals 2020/21 Purpose: To present draft Capital Programme Proposals for 2020/21	Lisa Buckle/ Cllr Jory	Report of s151 Officer	3 December 2019	

Financial Stability Review Group (FSRG) – Member Briefing Note to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 8th October 2019

The meetings of the Council's Financial Stability Review Group (the FSR Group) commenced with the Group meeting on 24th September. The FSR Group will meet on a monthly basis and report to each meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The FSR Group suggested minor amendments to their Terms of Reference. It was agreed that instead of the FSR Group working in two co-ordinated but distinct sub groups of the Budget Team and the Income Team, that the FSR Group would instead encompass all of these activities into the work of the whole Group. The Terms of Reference will be agreed at the next meeting of the Hub Committee on the 5th November.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) report for 2020/21 to 2024/25 was presented to Council on 17th September and was discussed by the FSR Group, in particular the financial modelling and the assumptions.

Members noted the predicted budget gap for 2020/21 of £0.4 million and the aggregated Budget Gap of £1.24 million over the next five years. It was also noted that the MTFS includes budgeting for a pay award of 1% and if this is increased when it is nationally negotiated, this would also increase the budget gap.

It was discussed that the new Chancellor (Sajid Javid) has announced that there will be a one year Spending Review covering the period 2020-21, with a multi year Spending Review held thereafter and that it was probable that there would be funding to remove negative Revenue Support Grant (RSG) for one year in 2020/21, but this had not been confirmed.

In addition, legacy payments for New Homes Bonus were likely to be honoured and the reform of the Business Rates Retention Scheme and the Fairer Funding Review will both be delayed until 2021/22. Members of the FSR Group noted that individual Council funding figures for 2020/21 will be released in December with the Local Government Finance Settlement and that this late notification of funding was causing difficulties for all tiers of Local Government with the inherent level of financial uncertainty.

It was discussed that the Council Tax Referendum limit was likely to be proposed at 2% for District Councils and that it had not yet been confirmed whether this would also include the normal £5 limit for District Councils. The MTFS had modelled council tax increases at 2.99% and therefore this would increase the budget gaps modelled which would be reflected within the next Budget report to the Hub Committee on 5th November. A 1% increase in council tax was equivalent to £47,000 in additional income.

The cost pressures for 2020/21 in the MTFS were already totalling £479,500 and the point was made by Members of the FSR Group that future years' cost pressures could also rise to this level nearer the time, as they were currently in the £300,000 region in the modelling. For example, the Council's agenda for tackling climate change involved producing a costed plan which could increase costs in future years of the MTFS.

This work was currently being progressed and could be built into the MTFS when a costed plan was available and approved by Members. This was one example of future unknown costs.

Members also discussed opportunities for future savings and income generation and noted the savings predicted in the MTFS from the leisure contract in future years and from commercial investments.

It was noted that there were opportunities on the Invest to Earn Committee agenda for the 1st October, which, subject to Member approval and completion of the due diligence on the projects, had the potential to provide a net ancillary income to the Council of £130,000 per year, if the investments progressed as outlined within the business cases. It was noted by Members that many of the Council's commercial income tenancies had lease expiry dates in the year 2028/2029 and therefore this was a pressure point for the Council, with a need to balance the portfolio with expiry dates before and after this date.

It was noted that a report on Kilworthy Park would be presented to Members at the Hub Committee meeting on the 5th November. Reference was also made to the trials for three weekly waste collections.

Members discussed Earmarked Reserves and reviewed the Capital Programme and it was agreed that there would be specific sections within the Council's Members' Budget Workshop on both of these.

A discussion also took place regarding the Council's proposed withdrawal of the Council Tax Support Grant paid to Town and Parish Councils and it was noted that the consultation responses from Town and Parish Councils would be presented to Members within the next Budget report to the Hub Committee on 5th November.

It was thought by the Financial Stability Review Group that the budget for 2020/21 was capable of being balanced subject to:

- consideration of the pensions strategy for the actuarial pension valuation
- the Government eliminating negative Revenue Support Grant for 2020/21
- further work on commercial investment business cases
- further savings and income generation ideas from the Extended Leadership Team being presented to Members at the forthcoming Members' Budget Workshop on 12th November.

Fees and Charges were also discussed with a focus being on the Council continuing to offer its services to Town and Parish Councils and third parties, through income generation initiatives. The next meeting of the Financial Stability Review Group is on 22nd October at 1.30pm. It was agreed that this meeting would focus around agreeing the content of the Members' Budget Workshop being held on Tuesday 12th November at 1.30pm.

Prepared by Mrs L Buckle (S151 Officer), 26th September 2019

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME – 2019/20

Date of Meeting	Report	Lead Officer
19 November 2019	Update from the Financial Stability Review Group (<i>standing agenda item</i>)	Lisa Buckle
	Task and Finish Group Updates - Leisure Review	Jon Parkinson
	Hub Committee Forward Plan	Kathy Trant
	Locality Service – Annual Report	Richard Easthope
	Peer Review Action Plan: Political Governance Arrangements	Neil Hawke
	Member 2019 Induction Review	Darryl White
	Future Approach to Performance Measures	Neil Hawke
	Ombudsman Annual Review Letter 2019	Catherine Bowen
	Customer Satisfaction Survey 2019	Nadine Trout
14 January 2020	Draft Budget Proposals 2020/21	Lisa Buckle
	Joint Local Plan: Quarterly Update (<i>standing agenda item</i>)	Richard Grant
	Task and Finish Group Updates: - Leisure Review: Concluding Report	Jon Parkinson
	Hub Committee Forward Plan	Kathy Trant
25 February 2020	Fusion Leisure – Annual Report and Presentation	Jon Parkinson
	Customer Satisfaction Progress Update (<i>standing agenda item</i>)	Nadine Trout
	Task and Finish Group Updates (if any)	
	Quarterly Performance Measures	Jim Davis
	Hub Committee Forward Plan	Kathy Trant
7 April 2020	Joint Local Plan: Quarterly Update (<i>standing agenda item</i>)	Richard Grant
	Task and Finish Group Updates (if any)	
	Customer Satisfaction Progress: Quarterly Update	Nadine Trout
	Quarterly Performance Measures	Jim Davis
	DCC Reps: Transport Infrastructure Update	Tom Jones
	Hub Committee Forward Plan	Kathy Trant

Future Item(s) to be programmed:

*** Hub Committee Request – Enforcement: Verbal Update (January meeting?) (Pat Whymer / Chris Booty) ***

Community Safety Partnership: Annual Report (Louisa Daley); and
Safeguarding Annual Report (Louisa Daley).