

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE TO FULL COUNCIL

2013 – 2014

BACKGROUND

Arising out of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council has had in place an Overview & Scrutiny Committee since May 2002.

MEMBERSHIP

The following Councillors served on the Committee during the Council Year 2013/2014:

Cllr Mandy Ewings (Chairman)
Cllr Diana Moyse (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Alison Clish Green
Cllr Christine Hall
Cllr John Hockridge
Cllr Donald Horn
Cllr Jeff Moody
Cllr Debo Sellis
Cllr John Sheldon
Cllr David Whitcomb

(Note: other Members also served on the Committee during the course of the year in a substitute capacity).

MEETINGS

Meetings of the Committee have been held on the following dates:

Tuesday 4 June 2013
Tuesday 29 October 2013
Tuesday 14 January 2014
Tuesday 18 March 2014

TASK & FINISH GROUPS (TFG)

- **Rural Broadband**
(Membership: Cllrs K Ball, A Clish-Green, D W Cloke, J B Moody and J Sheldon)

The Rural Broadband Task and Finish Group now meet independently (having originally been set up as a joint Group with South Hams District Council). The Group continues to report progress to the Committee.

- **Locality and Commissioning Task and Finish Group**

(Membership: Cllrs Cllr Mandy Ewings; Diana Moyse; Donald Horn, Robin Musgrave, Terry Pearce and John Sheldon)

A Task and Finish Group of Members was set up to investigate Locality and Commissioning Models across other authorities as part of the Transformation Programme T18.

CALL-IN

- There were no Call Ins during the 2013/14 year.

OTHER TOPICS COVERED DURING THE YEAR

- **Performance Indicators**

Performance indicators were monitored during the course of the year and appropriate action responses requested where performance fell short of target.

- **Service Level Agreement Monitoring**

The Committee received a monitoring report in relation to the service level agreements with West Devon Community and Voluntary Services and the Citizens Advice Bureau. In addition, presentations were received from both organisations.

- **Health and Wellbeing**

Following changes in legislation that altered the way that Health and Wellbeing would be delivered to residents, the Committee took an active role in Health and Wellbeing and received a presentation from the District Council Representative on the Devon County Council Health and Wellbeing Board. The Committee also received a presentation from Mr David Rogers OBE, a representative of Healthwatch.

- **Community Safety Partnership**

The Committee received a report from the Head of Environmental Health and Housing that gave the opportunity to scrutinise the work of the Community Safety Partnership. In addition, Superintendent Michelle Slevin attended to discuss the crime data that had been included within the report.

- **Review of the Process and Decisions that led to the Judicial Review judgement relating to the former Focus DIY Store, Tavistock Retail Park**

The Committee received a progress report from the Working Group that had been set up to review the decision in relation to the Focus DIY Store. A subsequent report with recommendations was taken directly to Council.

- **Use of Agency Staff**

The Committee requested a further report into the use of Agency Staff by the Council. It was agreed that SMT continue to monitor the use of Agency Staff.

- **Transformation Programme T18**

The Committee received a number of updates in relation to Transformation Programme and it was agreed that the O&S Committee would be the appropriate forum for T18 progress to be monitored.

- **Impact of Welfare Reforms**

The Committee specifically requested information on the impact of Welfare Reforms on the Council. The Head of ICT and Customer Services presented a detailed report and also updated Members on the Local Discretionary Welfare Support Fund and how it was being used. Members also raised concerns about the reception area and requested a survey be undertaken. This took place and the Customer Services manager was able to report a satisfactory response.

- **Review of Connect Partnership and related Delivery Arrangements**

The Committee received a report in relation to a suggested way forward for the Connect Partnership and related delivery arrangements, following a review undertaken by the Connect Partnership Board and officers, and prompted by Member feedback, the outcome of the Peer Review and reducing staff and financial capacity within the Council and partner agencies.

- **Devon Home Choice**

The Committee received a report from the Housing Team Manager that provided members with a recommendation that no changes be made to the agreed Devon Home Choice Policy.

BUDGET

No expenditure was incurred in the financial year 2013/14 against the budget of £1,500.

FORTHCOMING WORK PROGRAMME

- Continue monitoring of Performance Indicators
- Receive a presentation from West Devon Community Voluntary Services
- Monitor Service Level Agreements with WD CVS and CAB
- Monitor Health and Wellbeing on behalf of the residents of the Borough
- Monitor progress of the Transformation Programme T18, to include progressing the Locality and Commissioning Task and Finish Group
- Respond, as appropriate, to issues relating to the work of the Council and to the West Devon area in general
- Invite representatives of any service organisation when issues arise which disadvantage residents
- Scrutinise the local crime and disorder partnership – Community Safety Partnership
- Continue to monitor the Council's policy on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act