

REPORT OF THE CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR OF POLICY AND CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE.

The last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee took place on the 26th September 2012 and Members were provided with updates on the agreed and scoped work programmes from all the Overview and Scrutiny Committees:

Policy and Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

Committee Members were presented with an overview on "Impact of Welfare Reform" at the last meeting in September. This presentation provided information on budgetary and financial forecasting implications. The Committee will now be looking to progress this topic over the next few months.

Members also received a number of presentations on the Corporate Plan, the LGA Peer Review and the budget which the Committee will continue to monitor.

Requests have now been made to the Executive Members to provide the Committee with feedback on recommendations for 2011-2012 at the November meeting of each Committee

Floods

A special meeting between the Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee took place on the 19th September 2012, where the outcomes from the recent floods were reviewed.

Representations from the Regeneration and Environment portfolios, the Fire Authority and the Environment Agency were present at the meeting with Members holding a positive and constructive debate with Officers and Partner Agencies.

The Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee will consider the matter further at its next meeting in November before recommendations are submitted to Policy and Resources Committee.

Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

The Regeneration Committee lead on the joint review into the floods, however this has not impeded upon the Committees own work programme. The Committee has now undertaken a site visit and held a number of meetings with Officers regarding its Highways Task Group, with more meetings planned in November before final recommendations from Members are agreed.

In the short term the Committee will also be looking to start its review into Waste Procurement, a meeting with the Director for Environment will be set

up to ensure that the Committee is up to date on developments since the Committees' meeting in June 2012.

The Committee expects to finish its work on the Highways Task Group in November and submit recommendations to the next Policy and Resources Committee. Once this work has been completed, Members will look to undertake its planned review on the Boroughs town centres.

The Committee is yet to fully scope in detail its planned work on the Boroughs town centres, but Members are keen to look at ensuring the success of the markets and the vitality of our town centres, supporting jobs and growth through sustainable long term regeneration and review the risk to the Borough of declining income.

The Children's & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee;

It is to be noted that the Children's & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to have a busy schedule holding eight meetings in nine weeks with two full Committee meetings on the 20th August and 12th September 2012.

At the September meeting of the Committee Members held in depth discussions on the Children's Budget with Cllr Maureen Bateson, the Adults budget with Cllr Mohammed Khan and the new Schools budget with Lisa Bibby

The October meeting of the Committee saw Members receive representations from the Director for Public Health, the Strategic Director for Children's services and the leader of the Council on NHS Reforms.

The informal discussion allowed Members to receive information on preparations on the Clinical Commissioning Group, public health powers transferring to the Council and the new developed Health and Wellbeing Board strategy. Members were also updated on the five priority areas identified by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The informal discussion with Officers and the Leader was very well received by all Members and a positive result for scrutiny.

The Committee also considered its new work topics for the second half of the year and received a final update on each of the Committees current subgroups before final recommendations at the November meeting.

Jim Shorrocks (Chair)

Brian Taylor (Vice Chair)