

12 March 2019

Feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Portfolios: All

Wards: All

1. Summary of report

This report provides a short summary of the activity of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

2. Recommendation

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the feedback from Overview and Scrutiny Committees be noted.

3. Report

Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The next Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting takes place after the Scrutiny Overview Committee on 25 April 2019. Items on the agenda include:

- Children's Mental Health;
- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report;
- Children's Services Transformation Plan;
- Final report of the Ofsted Working Group and monitoring of recommendations from 2018.

Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 26 March 2019 and considered the following items:

- 1) The Jane Lane School
 - a. Report on action taken in response to the recent inadequate judgement on the School by Ofsted
 - b. Meeting attended by members of the public/parents and representatives of FACE Walsall and a community advocate
 - c. Committee noted the report and noted the actions taken by the Council in managing the case of a special school being judged inadequate
 - d. Committee to receive an update in 3 months on progress
- 2) Schools funding and pupil premium
 - a. Report providing an overview of schools funding and pupil premium funding, identifying the main points and key issues

- b. Explanations of funding blocks and formulas, monitoring of expenditure and arrangements if schools were to overspend
- 3) Teacher supply and recruitment
 - a. Report on work on teacher supply and recruitment being undertaken in the Borough
 - b. Committee received an overview of the DfE's latest teacher recruitment and retention strategy
- 4) Working group on SEND, pupil exclusions and children not accessing education
 - a. Working group report received and noted by Committee
 - b. Working group report referred to Cabinet for consideration

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On 4 April 2019, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following:

Economy and Environment Financial Performance – Forecast Revenue and Capital Outturn Update for 2018/19

The Committee considered a financial performance update for the forecast revenue and capital outturn position for 2018/19 for services within the remit of the Committee.

Members requested clarification on implementations of Open Plus in Libraries, underachievement of planning applications, additional security works at clean and green depots and the active living grant allocation to Oak Park car park.

Areas of Focus – 2018/19

The Committee received an update from the Leader of the Council on proposal for Police and Crime Commissioner Governance transfer of powers to Mayor of West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). In response, he confirmed that the WMCA Board considered proposals and resolved to postpone implementation due to opposition from Board Members.

Following consideration of the WMCA Board Forward Plan for May 2019 to July 2019, the Chair requested that the following reports be circulated to Members of the Committee for information:

- Adult Education Budget
- 5G Delivery Plan Update
- Low Emissions Strategy
- Strategic Bus Vision Delivery Plan

Air Quality in Walsall

The Committee received a presentation from Executive Director of Economy and Environment and Director of Public Health about the Council's overview of air quality in Walsall. In addition, the Committee received a presentation from

Assistant Director of Transport and Connectivity at Birmingham City Council on Birmingham's Clean Air Zone (CAZ).

The Executive Director, Director of Public Health and Head of Planning, Engineering and Transportation informed the Committee that overall human-made air pollution attributed between 28,000 and 36,000 deaths each year. Whilst the effects of the air pollution on human health had been significant, there was a direct correlation with air pollution affecting the vulnerable and deprived areas of society.

It was noted that the Council was working with Central Government, neighbouring authorities and partner organisations to identify and reduce air pollution in the Borough.

A few highlights:

- Sustainable Travel : Active, Responsible Safe (STARS) was an accreditation scheme for schools to encourage young people to travel to walk or cycle to school. The Executive Director encouraged Members to engage with local schools about the STARS initiative;
- The West Midlands Air Quality Improvement Programme established by Birmingham University aimed at understanding pollution in the region and develop ways of improving public health;
- The West Midlands Low Emissions Towns and Cities Programme involved all West Midland Local Authorities to conduct technical feasibility studies on low emission zones and health and economic impacts. The programme resulted in the establishment of a low emissions vehicle strategy;
- The Council recognised the role of electric vehicles in reducing air pollution in the Borough;
- It was noted that the West Midlands Combined Authority was developing a Low Emissions Strategy.

Economy and Environment Draft Annual Report

The Committee consider the Economy and Environment draft annual report which sets out the work by the Committee for the period 2018/19.

The Chair was disappointed that the Air Quality Working Group had not been established this year. However, he praised the positive work that the Committee had completed especially with the Private Rented Sector Housing and Selective Licensing Working Group.

Petition: Compulsory purchase of the former Legge's Site and any other site surrounding the Town Centre to help regenerate Willenhall.

The Committee considered a petition in Private Session on compulsory purchase of the former Legge's Site and any other site surrounding the Town Centre to help regenerate Willenhall. Councillor D Coughlan presented the petition and explained her reasons for the use of compulsory purchase powers in Willenhall.

Executive Director – Economy and Environment explained the role of CPOs and circulated a briefing note to Committee Members.

It was noted that negotiations were ongoing with the landowners and partners to purchase the former Legge's site.

The Committee resolved to note the petition.

Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is meeting on 11 April 2019. An update on the meeting will be provided at the Scrutiny Overview Committee meeting on 23 April 2019. Items on the agenda include:

- Walsall Together
- Adult Social Care Statutory Services;
- Social Care Brokerage;
- Final report of the Young Peoples Working Group;
- Draft Annual report.

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