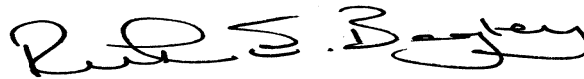


Date of issue: Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b> (Councillors Nazir (Chair), Smith, Bal, Coad, N Holledge, Malik, Pantelic, Rana and Usmani )
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	THURSDAY, 9TH APRIL, 2015 AT 6.30 PM
<b>VENUE:</b>	MEETING ROOM 3, CHALVEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE GREEN, CHALVEY, SLOUGH, SL1 2SP
<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)</b>	SHABANA KAUSER 01753 787503

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend the above Meeting at the time and date indicated to deal with the business set out in the following agenda.



**RUTH BAGLEY**  
Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART 1

<u>AGENDA</u> <u>ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
	Apologies for absence.		
	<b>CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS</b>		
1.	Declaration of Interest  <i>All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary or other Pecuniary or non pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 3 paragraphs 3.25 – 3.27 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 3.28 of the Code.</i>		

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM**

**REPORT TITLE**

**PAGE**

**WARD**

*The Chair will ask Members to confirm that they do not have a declarable interest. All Members making a declaration will be required to complete a Declaration of Interests at Meetings form detailing the nature of their interest.*

- |    |  |       |   |
|----|--|-------|---|
| 2. | Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 3rd March 2015 | 1 - 6 | - |
|----|--|-------|---|

**SCRUTINY ISSUES**

- |    |                  |  |  |
|----|------------------|--|--|
| 3. | Member Questions |  |  |
|----|------------------|--|--|

*(An opportunity for Committee Members to ask questions of the relevant Director/ Assistant Director, relating to pertinent, topical issues affecting their Directorate – maximum of 10 minutes allocated).*

- |    |  |         |     |
|----|--|---------|-----|
| 4. | Presentation by Francis Habgood, Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police | -       | All |
| 5. | Slough Regeneration Partnership  | 7 - 12  | All |
| 6. | Five Year Plan Update  | 13 - 16 | All |
| 7. | Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15   | 17 - 28 | All |
| 8. | Attendance Record  | 29 - 30 | -   |
| 9. | Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 16th June 2015                          | -       | -   |

**Press and Public**

You are welcome to attend this meeting which is open to the press and public, as an observer. You will however be asked to leave before the Committee considers any items in the Part II agenda. Please contact the Democratic Services Officer shown above for further details.

The Council allows the filming, recording and photographing at its meetings that are open to the public. Anyone proposing to film, record or take photographs of a meeting is requested to advise the Democratic Services Officer before the start of the meeting. Filming or recording must be overt and persons filming should not move around the meeting room whilst filming nor should they obstruct proceedings or the public from viewing the meeting. The use of flash photography, additional lighting or any non hand held devices, including tripods, will not be allowed unless this has been discussed with the Democratic Services Officer.



**Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd March, 2015.**

**Present:-** Councillors Nazir (Chair), Smith (Vice-Chair), Coad, N Holledge, Malik, Rana and Usmani

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillors Hussain, Plenty and Sharif

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Bal and Pantelic

**PART I**

**47. Declaration of Interest**

None were received.

**48. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 5th February, 2015**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 be approved as a correct record.

**49. Member Questions**

None were received.

**50. Childhood Obesity Review**

The Committee received an update from Dr Reddy, Public Health Programme Manager, on the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's following the Childhood Obesity review carried out in July – December 2013. During the review, the stigma attached to childhood obesity and parental obesity, which was a factor contributing to individuals not seeking help, was highlighted.

Specific areas were examined in order that the maximum impact on the levels of childhood obesity could be addressed and included:

- Family eating practices and the nutritive quality of the food being consumed (cooked meals v takeaways)
- Physical activity levels
- Parental obesity (obese parents are 40% more likely to have obese children)
- The involvement of all key partners in making every single contact count.

Dr Reddy reported that although the rise in the levels of obesity could not be stopped, significant progress had been made in terms of improving the offer on physical activity, healthy eating and nutritious school meals. It was noted

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 03.03.15

that although challenges remained in the delivery of some of the recommendations, progress had been made in a number of areas, including:

- a) The monitoring and governance arrangements had been streamlined under the Children and Young People's Partnership Board (CYPPB), which was chaired by the Public Health Consultant.
- b) The physical activity outcomes had been incorporated onto the Physical Activity and Leisure Strategy and delivered through the key partners in the Physical Activity Steering Board through a mutually agreed action plan.
- c) The Health Visitor workforce had been increased prior to the service being commissioned by public health from October 2015. This universal service promoted breastfeeding, healthy weaning and healthy eating for children aged 0-5 years which should contribute in tackling childhood obesity in early year's settings. The Healthy Snack Awards for Children's Centres had also been extended to other early year settings via training for childminders.
- d) Chances4Change Programme – Big Lottery funded group of work streams led by public health, aimed at improving physical health, healthy eating and mental health of residents. The Public Health Team had organised a number of Walk and Talk Initiatives with mothers and toddlers in the Children's centres and libraries, engaging them in healthy eating and dance sessions.

Although a detailed update was outstanding from the Clinical Commissioning Group regarding the need for closer liaison between various organisations and the introduction of a system of regular health checks for children up to the age of 16 across all surgeries; since the scrutiny recommendations there had been a better understanding of the role of partnership working, better ways of communicating the issue, recognising the sensitivity surrounding the issue of childhood obesity and also identifying it as a local key priority through the CYPPB.

In the ensuing discussion a number of points were raised regarding the impact, if any, universal free school meals for reception, year 1 and year 2 pupils had had and strategies that had been engaged to encourage healthy eating. It was noted that there had been an increase from 32% to 49% of pupils accessing free school meals. The Committee were informed that the impact of this was difficult to assess as information was gathered at the end of year 6, with the possibility of pupils reverting back to unhealthy eating habits from year 3 to year 6. A Member suggested that a review be carried out at the end of year 2 and whilst it was acknowledged that this would provide a more accurate assessment of the impact of free school meals there would be significant cost implications of doing so.

Members were informed that two core healthy eating programmes were offered in local schools and that all schools engaged in the Slough Schools Sports Network (SSSN). The SSSN had identified schools that wished to establish a school based family physical activity programme. It was noted that the number of children participating in physical activity had risen. A Member

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 03.03.15

queried whether schools that were academies were participating in any of these programmes and was informed that the Local Authority was not responsible for Academies.

A number of other local initiatives were outlined to increase health eating and physical activity by residents, including New Early Years Initiative, FAST – Families and Schools Together. This programme focused on improving educational achievement using a collaborative and family approach. FAST was developed to equip parents with the confidence and skills needed to support their child's education and offered weekly sessions delivered through local schools.

A Member commented on the increase in the number of obesity cases in Slough and requested that the matter be investigated further, exploring the factors contributing to the increase in numbers and what work was being implemented by partner agencies to address the issue. Dr Reddy informed Members that although no work was planned in relation to this area of work, the matter would be raised with the appropriate agencies.

**Resolved** – That details of the report be noted and a progress report be submitted to the Committee in six months time.

### 51. **Thames Valley Transactional Services Update: September 2014 to February 2015**

The Committee received the Thames Valley Transactional Services performance report for the period September 2014 to February 2015. Core activities undertaken by arvato during this reporting period included:

- arvato's business continued to grow with the inclusion of the private business sector with over 400 staff employed on site. A commitment to supporting young people continued through offering apprenticeships and training them to NVQ Level 2. Working with the community remained a priority, with Kevin Hales, arvato site director appointed onto the Slough Aspire Board and staff contributing to school careers events and running local children's workshops. arvato were also sponsoring a category in the Slough Business Awards.
- Customer services had improved, with reduced waiting and call times for local residents.
- Strong Key Performance Indicators across all services ensuring the delivery of the contractual obligations. A Self Service system was being developed to allow residents to view their council tax accounts on line and remained on target for implementation from March 2015.
- The Council had commissioned arvato to carry out two additional projects – maximising business rates and reviewing Aged Debt. Both these projects were underway and would result in an increase in revenue for the Council.

A Member commented on how the budget gap of £2.7 million for phase 1 transactional services would be addressed and was informed that this was

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 03.03.15

met from one-off funding due to a Government grant above the anticipated level when the 2013/14 budget was set. For future years this funding gap would be addressed through a growth bid and reflected in the revenue and Medium Term Financial Strategies.

During the ensuing discussion Members requested information relating to recovery of monies when a company entered administration and what support and advice was given to companies experiencing financial difficulties. Kevin Hales explained that Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs had priority in terms of monies being recovered and would confirm where on the priority list Local Authorities were ranked.

Responding to what impact, if any, the introduction of Neighbourhood Benefit and Money Advice Officers had had, Members were informed that Officers had been working in some of the most deprived neighbourhoods of Slough to generate additional income within the community and improve financial inclusion. Initial feedback had demonstrated that work carried out by the Officers had had a positive impact.

The Committee was requested to give consideration to reschedule future performance reports to allow full performance figures to be presented at the end of each contractual year. It was agreed that arvato would continue to report to the Committee at least twice in each municipal year.

**Resolved** – That details of the performance report be noted and future reports be presented to the Committee in January and June of each year.

### 52. Town Centre Car Parking Task and Finish Group

Members were reminded that the Town Centre Car Parking Task and Finish Group was commissioned following concerns regarding parking and pressures on facilities in the town centre. In outlining the recommendations of the Task and Finish Group, Councillor Plenty who chaired the Group, explained that the current zero parking policy adopted for the town centre was unsustainable. With future developments such as Crossrail and Heathrow expansion it was necessary to ensure that Slough had a system which could anticipate and accommodate future trends.

Following a Member query regarding the parking facilities available at Tesco, Councillor Plenty explained that Tesco should be removed from the limit and the centre limit reduced accordingly as Tesco no longer provided a realistic option for free parking for the town centre or any parking over four hours. This meant that it was no longer a significant provided of parking spaces for anyone other than its own customers and its inclusion in the limit on town centre parking spaces distorted the picture.

Councillor Hussain, attending the meeting under Procedure Rule 30, stated that the zero parking policy was being applied to the area immediately surrounding the town centre. A number of residents had complained that

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 03.03.15

visitors often had no where to park and the Council needed to adopt a parking system which was suited to the needs of residents.

A Member suggested that underground parking be investigated as a possibility of providing parking spaces in the areas neighbouring the town centre. It was noted that whilst this was a feasible option, given the current zero parking policy adopted for the town centre, developers were not under any obligation to provide provisions for parking.

Members congratulated the Task and Finish Group for its thorough examination of the issues relating to town centre parking and agreed with the recommendations that were proposed within the report.

### **Resolved -**

- 1) That the current policy of zero parking be reviewed, with a future ratio to be specified subject to further research by Slough Borough Council (SBC) and justification;
- 2) That the potential hire of, or use of parking permits with time restrictions in neighbouring parking facilities (e.g. Tesco car park) be researched;
- 3) That the time restrictions on areas with single yellow lines be reduced to 6pm in suitable areas (subject to research by SBC);
- 4) That land adoption be used to increase SBC's control of parking (e.g. Kittiwake House, the area in Mill Street outside Foundry Court);
- 5) That the current limit of 5,000 parking spaces be reviewed, using the justification for it at the time of its creation and variations in the situation since this time (e.g. parking at Tesco's, Crossrail) to reappraise the figure;
- 6) That the parking at Slough railway station be removed from SBC's allocation of parking spaces;
- 7) That the potential expansion of car parking facilities at Slough railway station be investigated;
- 8) That the size of loading and unloading bays be reviewed to facilitate their use by larger vehicles; and
- 9) That further research be conducted into the continuation of free parking after 3pm, or cheaper parking through the use of a 'Slough Card', with a view to a potential increase in high street trade.

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### 53. Abandoned Vehicles Policy and Procedure

Following discussion at its meeting in February 2015, Members had requested that a written information report be presented to the March meeting, outlining the Council's policy and procedure to deal with abandoned and untaxed vehicles.

Members noted that although the number of vehicles being abandoned in Slough had fluctuated over recent years, there had been an overall decline over the last decade. This was mainly due to cars being scrapped by owners in return for cash rather than being abandoned. The Council did not have the authority to remove vehicles that were not abandoned and most vehicles reported to the Council were untaxed rather than abandoned.

A number of points were raised in the ensuing discussion including what the Local Authority's powers were to remove vehicles abandoned in front gardens and the criteria applied in assessing whether a vehicle had been abandoned. It was agreed that further detailed information was required and that an officer be requested to attend a future meeting.

**Resolved** – That the report be noted and the matter be discussed at a future committee meeting with officers in attendance.

### 54. Forward Work Programme

**Resolved** – That details of the work programme be noted.

### 55. Attendance Record

**Resolved** – That details of the Members Attendance Record be noted.

### 56. Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 9 April, 2015

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 9 April, 2015.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.20 pm)



**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee      **DATE:** 9 April 2015

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sarah Richards Strategic Director, Regeneration, Housing and Resources  
**(For all enquiries)** (01753) 875301

**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**  
**FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

**SLOUGH REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP – PARTNERSHIP BUSINESS PLAN****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Members on the progress of the Slough Regeneration Partnership (SRP). The report summarises the Business Plan for the period January 2015 to December 2019.

**2. Recommendation**

To note the progress being made by the Slough Regeneration Partnership.

**3. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The SRP delivers on the following priorities:

- Regeneration and environment: the SRP is a special purpose vehicle that will help deliver a range of regeneration projects and improvement to the environment across the town.
- Housing: the SRP will deliver a minimum of 200 new houses and flats from the first two site development (Ledgers Road, former Wexham Nursery) and potentially many more over the 15 year life of the SRP
- Economy and skills: building the Curve and the development of identified sites for housing will bring direct benefit to the local economy and skills base from a concerted effort to engage local businesses in the supply chain and integrating training opportunities for people employed in the construction process
- The actions of the SRP will contribute to improving the image of the town through the construction of the Curve, demonstrate the Council's commitment to the regeneration of the Heart of Slough through substantial public investment in the town centre and through a considered and innovative approach to design of new developments on key sites.
- Value for money: the SRP is expected to achieve a higher rate of return when assets are disposed of than comparable traditional routes for disposal.

**3b Five Year Plan Outcomes**

## Outcome

There will more homes in the borough, with quality improving across all tenures to support our ambition for Slough

The centre of Slough will be vibrant, providing business, living, and cultural opportunities

The Council's income and the value of its assets will be maximised

## Comments

By working through SRP the Council is able to ensure that good design of new homes on Council land assets is achieved at the same time that a full mix of tenures is provided.

Using the expertise of Morgan Sindall, enhanced private sector knowledge and understanding is being used in developing the vision and implementation plan for the future of the centre of Slough

The SRP maximises the value of the Council's assets by enabling the council to achieve the best market value for its assets as well as a share of the profit gained through construction.

## 4 Other Implications

### Financial

The SRP Business Plan has a significant financial implication for the timing of major capital schemes and receipts to the Council.

The current business plan indicates that the Council will receive capital receipts as follows:

Financial Year	£m
2014-15	3.2
2015-16	7.0
2016-17	
2017-18	2.7
2018-19	

The current Capital Strategy (2015 -19) reflects anticipated receipts for the sites at Ledgers Road and Wexham nursery totalling £9m. The Capital Strategy also includes a lower level of receipts as the recent increases to the land value had yet to be factored in. Any further rises to land value, and additional sites being included within the SRP, will further benefit the Council's capital strategy and reduce the use of internal balances.

There are three key financial elements contained within the SRP Business Plan which have implications for the Council:

- 1) Residual Land Value: indicative figures from the latest SRP Business Plan have been included within the capital strategy; however, the Council will need to ensure that these reflect best value at the time of disposal and these numbers will be likely to change over the course of the development process. There is a statutory requirement to ensure the Council receives best value when disposing of sites and if the difference in value between the offer and an

independent valuation is greater than £2m then the transaction has to be referred to the Secretary of State. It is the Council's position to achieve best value from capital receipts through the SRP; any proposals that represent less than best value will need to come back to Cabinet for consideration. The land value agreed for the Ledgers Road site meets the best value test.

- 2) A share of the development profit which is returned to the Council at the completion of each individual site: the business plan shows net profit receivable to the end of 2018-19 totalling £5.5m, based on the completed development during this period of Ledgers Road, Wexham Nursery and Haymill. This takes into account the administrative costs of the SRP that are paid before the development profits are distributed. A further £1.6m is anticipated post 2019, from the completion of development at Montem Lane. This figure is likely to be lower as Haymill will not be developed in this period.
- 3) The scale of the capital development of the Council's infrastructure that it decides to place into the SRP to develop: at present the capital programme includes the completion of the Curve building. Indicative figures concerning leisure facilities (though this remains dependent upon decisions taken concerning the Leisure Strategy) will be presented separately to Cabinet and will be included in future capital strategies.

In addition, investment returns on loan notes issued total £1m in the SRP Business Plan.

The Council has decided to purchase affordable housing on both the Ledgers Road and Wexham Nursery sites to increase its stock of council homes. The financial implications of these decisions have been worked through on a site by site basis. These acquisitions, estimated at circa £10m, will be funded by means of HRA balances, revenue funding and right to buy receipts.

There are other financial implications of the SRP through the associated impact on the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

(b) Risk Management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Legal - Some issues detailed legal issues are arising as the SRP is gaining momentum and the complex legal framework that supports it is tested.	Legal advice is sought in all cases to ensure the interests of the council are protected.	
Property – the council entered into SRP in order to maximise the financial benefits from asset ownership and disposal. The risk is that the costs of the agreement are not outweighed by the	Active participation in SRP and effective challenge of the development appraisals submitted by SRP on a site by site basis by informed staff.	The opportunity to maximise the financial benefits to Slough of effective management of the Council's asset base

benefits		
Human Rights	n/a	
Health and Safety	n/a	
Employment Issues	n/a	
Equalities Issues	n/a	
Community Support	n/a	
Communications – ineffective or inadequate communication about the benefits of SRP to Slough leading to negative approach by the community .	A Communications and Community involvement plan is part of the suite of documents that makes up the Partnership Business Plan	
Community Safety	n/a	
Financial	See comments above	
Timetable for delivery	n/a	
Project Capacity	n/a	
Other	n/a	

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications associated with this report.

(d) Equalities Impact

An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed at the point at which SBC entered into the SRP. The approval of the PBP does not require a separate EIA.

**5. Supporting Information**

5.1 The first Partnership Business Plan (PBP) was adopted by Slough Regeneration Partnership (SRP) and by the Council in March 2013 at the time of entering the joint venture with Morgan Sindall. The PBP is a core document for the SRP. It sets out the strategic direction of the Partnership, with governance arrangements, operational business arrangements and provides a rolling 5 year plan of activities for the SRP.

5.2 The Partnership Agreement requires that the PBP is updated annually and it has to be formally agreed by both partners. For SBC, Cabinet is the identified decision making body.

5.3 Progress continues with building the Partnership, taking the complex legal agreements and making them work to deliver the Council's ambitions and making practical steps to get regeneration of key sites underway. In the second year of the partnership substantial progress has been made with some key projects:

- the construction of the Curve is well underway and the whole build project is both on budget and within time. Although some unanticipated site issues have come to light during construction there has been no slippage on the date for handover to SBC (late September 2015).

- Planning permission has been granted for the development at Ledgers Road of 73 houses and flats. 24 units will be purchased by the HRA and will be available to Slough residents on the housing waiting list. Construction will start this month and the first completed houses will be available in 2016.
- Planning permission was granted in February 2015 (subject to completion of a s106 agreement) for 104 houses on the former Wexham Nursery site. 34 of these houses will be purchased by the HRA and will be available for Slough residents on the housing waiting list. Construction will start later in 2015 and the first completed houses will be available in late 2016.
- Apprenticeships and use of local supply chain generated by the construction of the Curve: a number of specific roles have been recruited from Slough residents, 2 new apprenticeships for mechanical and electrical (M+E) trades and 2 existing M+E apprentices are employed on the Curve; 2 further apprentices engaged in drylining will start on site as the internal works commence. A number of these apprentices are at Langley College. Work placements are also being arranged for 14-16, 16-19 year olds and a graduate trainee is also employed.

- 5.4 The 2015 PBP has been developed following a workshop with SBC councillors and officer and Morgan Sindall staff in late 2014. The last year for the SRP has been a period in which there has been a shift in the way in which the partnership is working. With increasing experience of making the SRP effective, staff at Morgan Sindall and SBC are finding ways to streamline the administration and to ensure that the SRP focuses on the core ambitions set out in the original partnership agreement. A practical example of this is that Morgan Sindall, since early 2015, have been giving SBC capacity by providing a skilled and experienced individual to be part of the Centre of Slough working team. This is bringing private sector knowledge and experience to our strategic thinking for the future of Slough and particularly the centre of the town.
- 5.5 This shift in the way in which the SRP is working is also reflected in a changed list of priority sites, a more achievable timetable for site development and increasing robustness around the financial assumptions and forecasting contained within the site development plans and the financial appraisals contained in them. This increasing robustness coming at a time of general increase in values in the housing sector is contributing to the increased forecast capital receipts for the large development sites.
- 5.6 Following from an early indication by Morgan Sindall that they were not interested in developing sites for housing of less than 20 units the Council developed a proposition for setting up a subsidiary housing company. The principle of setting up a company was agreed at Cabinet in January 2015. Since that time Morgan Sindall have indicated that they are now interested in the small site development and a proposal for how this will be achieved is currently being considered. A separate report on this issue will be presented to Cabinet in April 2015.
- 5.7 SBC is now starting to use the opportunity that the SRP offers to procure the construction of new buildings without the need to go to market with the time and cost that entails. The process for doing this still gives SBC the assurance that the price is best value as it must be market tested. It is anticipated that the agreed works to Orchard CC to accommodate the Dance Academy and other extensions to education buildings will be procured by these means.

The format of the PBP is prescribed in the Partnership Agreement and partly is a re-statement of the objectives and governance arrangements of the Partnership and partly a programme plan for the next 5 years with most detail for the first 2 years.

- 5.8 The sites listed in the programme are those which were identified in the Partnership Agreement and on which either options to purchase are in place or are potential construction projects (community projects). The programme indicates that construction will commence on Ledgers Road at the start of 2015 and Wexham Nursery around the same time. 2 other sites under option – Haymill, and Weekes Drive – will not be progressed until later in the programme as each has critical constraints which currently are hindering their development. Following the decision on the Leisure Strategy at March Cabinet and the proposed relocation of the main pool and associated facilities to the Centre on Farnham Road work will now start on preparing a scheme and planning application for development on the Montem Lane site.
- 5.9 Substantial progress is now being made on the construction projects (Community Projects) that were listed in the Partnership Agreement and first PBP. The construction of the Curve is well underway with the planned opening late in 2015. As noted above the recent decision to locate the main leisure facility on the Centre site, Farnham Road means that scheme preparation and design will soon start for the new building. In addition further projects are in design phase – Orchard community centre modifications to accommodate the Creative Dance Academy; additional buildings at St Joseph's High School and extensions to the Ice Arena.
- 5.10 Any comments made by Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members will be reported verbally to Cabinet at it's meeting on 13 April 2015.

## 6. **Appendices**

'A copy of the SRP Partnership Business Plan 2015-19 (which contains commercially sensitive information) can be viewed by Councillors (contact Vikki Swan 01753 875300 or [vikki.swan@slough.gov.uk](mailto:vikki.swan@slough.gov.uk))

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee      **DATE:** 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Tracy Luck, Head of Strategic Policy and Communications  
**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875518

**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**  
**FOR COMMENT & CONSIDERATION**

**FIVE YEAR PLAN**

1. **Purpose of Report**

To consider the performance monitoring arrangements for the five year plan.

2. **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the Committee consider the performance monitoring arrangements for the five year plan and the role the Committee may play.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Corporate Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

The five year plan relates to all aspects of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy's (SJWS) priorities and cross-cutting themes as set out below.

Priorities:

- Health
- Economy and Skills
- Regeneration and Environment
- Housing
- Safer Communities

Cross-Cutting themes:

- Civic responsibility
- Improving the image of the town

The SJWS is due to be refreshed this year and the review will be carried out in the light of the direction of the five year plan.

The five year plan has been developed using the evidence base of the JSNA and the Slough Story.

### 3b Five Year Plan Outcomes

The outcomes are:

- Slough will be the premier location in the south east for businesses of all sizes to locate, start, grow, and stay
- There will more homes in the borough, with quality improving across all tenures to support our ambition for Slough
- The centre of Slough will be vibrant, providing business, living, and cultural opportunities
- Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley
- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs
- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances
- The Council's income and the value of its assets will be maximised
- The Council will be a leading digital transformation organisation

#### 4. Other Implications

##### (a) Financial

The five year plan will be used to determine the Council's spending priorities from 2016/17. This process will start during 2015/16 including by identifying in year savings.

##### (b) Risk Management

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Legal		
Property		
Human Rights		
Health and Safety		
Employment Issues		
Equalities Issues		
Community Support		
Communications		
Community Safety		
Financial		The plan will provide a mechanism to make budget decisions from 2016/17.
Timetable for delivery		
Project Capacity		
Other		



(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no direct legal implications. The specific activity in the plan and outcome plans may have legal implications which will be considered when required. There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessments will be prepared for specific actions within the plan when required.

5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 At the last meeting of the Committee the council's new five year plan was considered. Members asked that the performance monitoring arrangements for the plan be brought back to this meeting for consideration.
- 5.2 The five year plan will be monitored through:
- A revised corporate balanced scorecard which is currently being developed
  - Through a reporting template for each outcome based on the current 'Gold' project reports
  - Through detailed review of the progress on individual outcomes
- 5.3 Regular monitoring reports will be brought to the Cabinet and this Committee as part of an amended version of the current performance and financial monitoring reports starting in the new municipal year. A timetable will also be agreed for detailed review of the outcomes. The Committee may also wish to consider outcomes individually in more depth in order to scrutinise progress.

6. **Conclusion**

The plan will provide the strategic direction for the organisation over the next five years and will enable a clear focus of resources and activity.

7. **Background Papers**

None.

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL****REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015**CONTACT OFFICER:** Councillor Nazir – Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**(For all Enquiries)** Dave Gordon – Scrutiny Officer  
(01753) 875411**WARDS:** All**PART I**  
**FOR COMMENT AND ENDORSEMENT****ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2014/15****1. Purpose of Report**

It is customary at this time of year to be drafting the Annual Scrutiny Report. The purpose of this cover report is to provide the Committee with background on the constitutional requirement of an Annual Scrutiny Report to Council, and to provide members with an opportunity to comment on the draft report and seeks views on any other information that should be included in the Report.

**2. Recommendation to Council**

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) suggest any amendments to the draft Report they feel necessary; and
- 2) subject to any amendments, endorse that the Report be presented to Council on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

**3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan****3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Overview and Scrutiny is a process by which decision-makers are accountable to local people, via their elected representatives for improving outcomes relating to all priorities for the Borough and its residents. Scrutiny seeks to influence those who make decisions by considering the major issues affecting the Borough and making recommendations about how services can be improved. The Annual Scrutiny Report supports the Scrutiny Function by providing a record of the work carried out during the year and plans for the future year and as such covers all of the priorities and cross-cutting themes.

Priorities:

- Health
- Economy and Skills
- Regeneration and Environment
- Housing
- Safer Communities

Cross-Cutting themes:

- Civic responsibility
- Improving the image of the town

### 3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

Overview and Scrutiny also covers all of the five year plan outcomes and will look to scrutinise delivery of the eight outcomes during 2015/16:

- Slough will be the premier location in the south east for businesses of all sizes to locate, start, grow, and stay
- There will more homes in the borough, with quality improving across all tenures to support our ambition for Slough
- The centre of Slough will be vibrant, providing business, living, and cultural opportunities
- Slough will be one of the safest places in the Thames Valley
- More people will take responsibility and manage their own health, care and support needs
- Children and young people in Slough will be healthy, resilient and have positive life chances
- The Council's income and the value of its assets will be maximised
- The Council will be a leading digital transformation organisation

### 4. **Supporting Information**

4.1 Annual reports are an opportunity to review the scrutiny work programme for the past year and assess the impact of scrutiny has had on influencing policy and holding the Executive to account. Looking at an Annual Report can help us to understand the nature of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and to assess its effectiveness. It also gives an opportunity to reflect on any lessons learned during the year to help guide future work.

4.2 The production of an Annual Report is a statutory requirement of the Constitution and in addition the Committee "must report annually to the full Council on future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate."

4.3 This Committee is provided with a draft of the Annual Scrutiny Report which highlights some key achievements from the year where Scrutiny has made a difference.

4.4 There is scope to build on and develop different methods of scrutiny next year; particular attention needs to be given on evidencing how Scrutiny actually makes a difference and forward planning.

### 5. **Conclusion**

The Local Authority, through its Overview and Scrutiny Function, has an influential, as well as statutory, role in scrutinising the activities and performance of the Cabinet and External Bodies. The Annual Scrutiny Report provides an opportunity to communicate the work the Committee and its Panels have undertaken, challenges faced and the improvements made as a result of scrutiny.

### 6. **Appendices Attached**

A - Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15

### 7. **Background Papers**

None.

# Annual Scrutiny Report

## 2014/2015



## **Foreword**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Annual Scrutiny Report. The Report highlights key pieces of work each of the Scrutiny Panels and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee have completed over the past year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the three Panels (Education and Children's Services, Neighbourhoods and Community Services and Health) have, once again, had a busy year. This report highlights the key achievements of the Panels and the Committee, so that this report gives a good picture of the big issues that Scrutiny has looked at during the 2014/15 municipal year.

Issues I would like to highlight, in particular, are: the focus of the Health Scrutiny Panel on the recent acquisition of Heatherwood and Wexham Park by Frimley Park NHS Foundation Trust; the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel continued work on Children's Services in Slough and negotiations with the Department for Education and the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel advising the Cabinet to implement changes in street cleaning arrangements at the time of contract retendering. In addition, this year the Overview and Scrutiny Panel commissioned a Task and Finish Group to investigate car parking in the town centre. Scrutiny plays a vital role in providing effective challenge, bringing transparency and examples of best practice into the services we provide to the public, and these issues demonstrate the value that the scrutiny process can bring.

The 2015/16 municipal year promises to be a challenging and rewarding year for Overview and Scrutiny with a review of Neighbourhood Action Groups already agreed and proposals to increase the level of task and finish work being put forward. I look forward to working with all members to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Cabinet and officers across all issues.

I would like to thank my own Vice Chair, as well as the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all the Panels for their support and leadership throughout the year. And on behalf of the all the Chairs and Vice Chairs I would also like to thank all members, officers and partners who have contributed to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function over the past year.



**Councillor Mohammed Nazir  
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

## **What is Overview and Scrutiny?**

The Overview and Scrutiny Function, established by the Local Government Act 2000, plays the role of critical friend to the Cabinet and other key decision makers.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees were created to:

- hold decision-makers to account;
- challenge performance and help improve services;
- ensure policies are working as intended and, where there are gaps, to help develop policy (through its own policy development work and making recommendations to decision-makers);
- bring a wider perspective, from citizens and stakeholders; and
- examine broader issues affecting local communities.

Through requesting information and questioning decision-makers an Overview Scrutiny Committee can review the quality of local services, hold decision-makers to account (whether the Cabinet or other statutory bodies such as NHS Trusts), and put forward ideas for developing and improving services.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny has set out the four principles for effective scrutiny as:

- critical friendship to decision-makers
- engaging the public, enabling the voice of the public and communities to be heard in the process
- owning the process with non-Executive Members driving the scrutiny process
- making an impact through driving forward improvements in public services

To achieve the desired quality of effective scrutiny, an Overview and Scrutiny function must:

- be independent
- be robust, rigorous and challenging
- fully engage all non-Executive Members
- come from a positive culture that supports and promotes the process
- involve local citizens and service users
- ensure that its purpose is clear and widely understood
- demonstrate the value added
- be creative in its ways of monitoring service performance
- have dedicated resources
- bring the conclusions of its Reviews to the attention of Full Council
- have a comprehensive Member Development programme

The questions an Overview and Scrutiny Function must ask itself in terms of its own effectiveness are:

- Is it effectively holding decision-makers to account?
- Is it helping to improve services?
- Is it building links between the Council, its partners and the community?
- Is it helping to improve the quality of life for local people?
- Is it adding value?

The Annual Report looks to assess the effectiveness of the work done by the Overview and Scrutiny Function at Slough Borough Council in the 2014/15 municipal year, as well as reviewing the changes to the role of scrutiny that have take place following the passing of the Localism Act, the Health Reforms and the changes in the education landscape, and looking towards the year ahead.

## **Overview and Scrutiny at Slough Borough Council**

The Overview and Scrutiny Function at Slough Borough Council is made up of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and three standing Panels: Health Scrutiny Panel, Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel, and Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel. In addition, each of these three groups can commission task and finish groups to undertake time-limited reviews of specific policy issues.

The Panels enable greater focus on specific subject matter, while the overarching Overview and Scrutiny Committee focuses on cross-cutting issues, corporate, financial and performance management of the Council. The Committee and Panels look to work closely together, using joint meetings where appropriate, to develop their work programmes and effectively scrutinise the work of the Council and its partners.

Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and three Panels receive research and administrative support from a dedicated Scrutiny Officer; with Democratic Services also providing committee administration to the main Committee and Health Scrutiny Panel.

### **Getting Involved**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and all three Panels meet in public, and welcome members of the public who wish to observe proceedings. Task & Finish Groups hold their meetings either in public or closed session as appropriate.

The agendas and related papers are published on the Slough Borough Council website five clear working days in advance of any meeting and are available to download for free.

### **Member Development**

2014/15 saw a series of events held to assist members of scrutiny panels in undertaking their work. The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel held two meetings in the autumn of 2014 to provide information on Ofsted and the responsibilities of local Councillors regarding Ofsted and local schools. In addition, an event was held with head teachers from Slough schools to share information on local provision, and the Chair of the Panel (Cllr Joginder Bal) attended an event organised by the Centre for Public Scrutiny regarding education scrutiny.

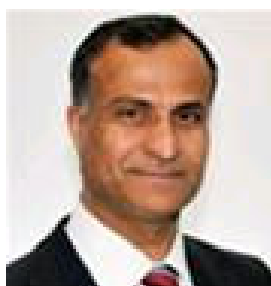
The Health Scrutiny Panel undertook a guided tour of facilities at Frimley Park Hospital followed by discussions with senior management on their proposals for Heatherwood and Wexham Park. The Chair of the Panel has also discussed matters with the new board of Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals.

The feedback from these sessions was extremely positive, and has helped build relationships with key organisations and individuals as well as offering advice on skills and overall approach.



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Membership:



Councillor Mohammed Nazir (Chair)



Councillor Dexter Smith (Vice Chair)

- Councillor Joginder Bal
- Councillor Diana Coad
- Councillor Nora Holledge
- Councillor Sandra Malik
- Councillor Natasa Pantelic
- Councillor Mandeep Rana
- Councillor Khaula Usmani

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met seven times during the 2014/15 municipal year.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee primarily focuses its attention on the particular Cabinet Portfolios of Finance and Strategy, and Performance and Accountability in planning its work programme for the year.

During the year the Committee considered a range of issues:

- The leisure services strategy
- The work of Aspire For You
- The contract with arvato and partnership working
- Car parking in Slough town centre
- Treasury management and the Slough Borough Council budget
- Estate services
- Capital strategy
- The Five Year Plan
- Children's Services and working with the Department for Education
- Crime and Disorder – Chief Constable
- Quarterly finance and performance monitoring
- Abandoned vehicles and Slough Borough Council's responsibilities

## Scrutiny Reviews

### Town Centre Car Parking Task and Finish Group

The Committee undertook an in-depth review of parking facilities in the town centre. The Task and Finish Group comprised of Councillors Plenty (Chair), Bal, Mellor, Nazir and Strutton and met in the autumn/winter of 2014/15 to discuss existing policy with officers and observe traffic patterns in Slough town centre.

This Review led to the following recommendations being made:

- 1) that the current policy of zero parking be reviewed, with a future ratio to be specified subject to further research by Slough Borough Council (SBC) and justification;
- 2) that the potential hire of, or use of parking permits with time restrictions in neighbouring parking facilities (e.g. Tesco car park) be researched;
- 3) that the time restrictions on areas with single yellow lines be reduced to 6pm in suitable areas (subject to research by SBC);
- 4) that land adoption be used to increase SBC's control of parking (e.g. Kittiwake House, the area in Mill Street outside Foundry Court);
- 5) that the current limit of 5,000 parking spaces be reviewed, using the justification for it at the time of its creation and variations in the situation since this time (e.g. parking at Tesco's, Crossrail) to reappraise the figure;
- 6) that the parking at Slough railway station be removed from SBC's allocation of parking spaces;
- 7) that the potential expansion of car parking facilities at Slough railway station be investigated;
- 8) that the size of loading and unloading bays be reviewed to facilitate their use by larger vehicles; and
- 9) that further research be conducted into the continuation of free parking after 3pm, or cheaper parking through the use of a 'Slough Card', with a view to a potential increase in high street trade.

These recommendations will be considered by the Cabinet in the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

## Health Scrutiny Panel

### Membership:



Councillor Natasa Pantelic (Chair)



Councillor Wayne Strutton (Vice Chair)

- Councillor Rayman Bains
- Councillor Avtar Cheema
- Councillor Nimrit Chohan
- Councillor Roger Davis
- Councillor Antreev Dhillon
- Councillor Michael Holledge
- Councillor Mandeep Rana

### Non-Voting Co-opted Member:

- Colin Pill (Slough Healthwatch)

The Health Scrutiny Panel met six times during the 2014/15 municipal year.

Taking on responsibility for the Cabinet portfolio of health and wellbeing, as well as holding the statutory responsibility for scrutinising the provision local health services across the Local Authority area. In doing this, the Panel covered a range of issues during the municipal year, including:

- The acquisition of Heatherwood and Wexham Park NHS Foundation Trust
- The joint autism strategy
- The Care Commissioning Group's commissioning strategy
- The Prime Minister's Access Challenge and local access to GPs
- GP out of hours service
- The work of Healthwatch Slough
- Children's and Adolescents' Mental Health Service
- The Better Care Fund
- Adult Safeguarding Annual Report and Strategy
- The Care Act 2014
- Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Quality Account 2014 / 15
- Mental Health Care Crisis Concordat

The Panel also reviewed the progress made against the recommendations from the Childhood Obesity Review completed in January 2014.

## **Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel**

### **Membership:**



Councillor Ted Plenty (Chair)



Councillor Anna Wright (Vice Chair)

- Councillor Wal Chahal (from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015)
- Councillor Diana Coad (until 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015)
- Councillor Nora Holledge
- Councillor Sandra Malik
- Councillor Fatima Mansoor
- Councillor Ishrat Shah
- Councillor Karnail Sidhu
- Councillor Paul Sohal

The Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel met seven times during the 2014/15 municipal year.

Taking on responsibility for the Cabinet portfolios of neighbourhoods and renewal, community and leisure, and environment and open spaces, the Panel covered a range of issues during the municipal year, including:

- Performance on the contract for void properties
- Neighbourhood policing and Neighbourhood Action Groups
- Waste collection performance
- Water metering
- Littering and fly-tipping
- Facilities for the disabled at Slough bus station
- The contract for street cleaning and its retendering
- Slough sheds and their use as accommodation
- The Real Time Passenger Information service on buses in Slough
- The policy for allocation of Slough Borough Council housing stock
- Management of garages at Slough Borough Council properties
- The survey of resident satisfaction

Recommendations were made to the Cabinet in March 2015 on improving the monitoring of street cleaning and to review the accuracy of real time passenger information. These were agreed.

The Panel met once as the Crime and Disorder Committee, taking evidence from representatives of the Safer Slough Partnership and commenting on the effective management of the Partnership and looking in detail at the issues of prostitution and the impact of Neighbourhood Action Groups.

## **Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel**

### **Membership:**



Councillor Joginder Bal (Chair)



Councillor Frank Abe (Vice Chair)

- Councillor Preston Brooker
- Councillor Wal Chahal
- Councillor Roger Davis
- Councillor Michael Holledge
- Councillor Sandra Malik
- Councillor Fiza Matloob
- Councillor Paul Sohal

### **Education Voting Co-opted Members:**

- Oxford Diocese Representative (Vacant)
- Northampton Diocese Representative (James Walsh)
- Parent Governor Representative (Vacant)

### **Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members:**

- Maggie Stacey (Head Teacher Representative)
- Lynda Bussley (Primary School Teacher Representative)
- Jo Rockall (Secondary School Teacher Representative)

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel met six times during the 2014/15 municipal year (its sixth meeting will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015).

Taking on responsibility for the Cabinet portfolios of education and children, and opportunities and skills, the Panel covered a range of issues during the municipal year, including:

- Cambridge Education Review of Services
- Children's Centres Inspection and Improvement Programme
- Schools' results
- Children's Services Improvement Programme
- Slough Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2013 – 14
- Cambridge Education Annual Review
- Raising pupil achievement
- School transport
- Children's and Adolescents' Mental Health Services
- The 'Team Around You' initiative
- School places planning
- Information on plans to improve education at Churchmead School and Burnham Park Academy

- Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report
- Schools' exclusion policy

**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD 2014/15**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>17/6/14</b>	<b>9/7/14</b>	<b>11/9/14</b>	<b>11/11/14</b>	<b>13/1/15 CANCELLED</b>	<b>5/2/15</b>	<b>3/3/15</b>	<b>9/4/15</b>
Bal	Ab	P	P	P*		Ap	Ap	
Chahal**	P	P	P	P		Ap	-	-
Coad**	-	-	-	-		-	P	
N Holledge	P	P	P	P		Ap	P	
Malik	P	P	P	P		P*	P	
Nazir	P	P	P	P		P	P	
Pantelic	P	P	Ap	Ab		Ap	Ap	
Rana	P	P	P	P		P	P	
Smith	P	P	P	P		P	P	
Usmani	P	P	P	Ap		P	P	

\*\* : Following a change in the political balance of the Council and revised allocation of seats, with effect from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Councillor Chahal (Conservative) was replaced on the Committee by Councillor Coad (UKIP)

P = Present for whole meeting  
 Ap = Apologies given

P\* = Present for part of meeting  
 Ab = Absent, no apologies given

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