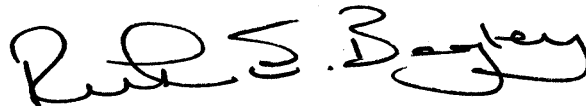


Date of issue: Tuesday, 9 June 2015

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b> (Councillors Nazir (Chair), Strutton (Vice-Chair), Ajaib, Bains, Bal, N Holledge, Malik, Rana and Usmani)
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	WEDNESDAY, 17TH JUNE, 2015 AT <b><u>8.00 PM</u></b>
<b>VENUE:</b>	MEETING ROOM 4, 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

**PLEASE NOTE MEMBER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING WILL TAKE PLACE AT 6.30PM REGARDING THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROCESS.**

**AGENDA**

**PART 1**

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM**

**REPORT TITLE**

**PAGE**

**WARD**

Apologies for absence.

**CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

1. Declaration of Interest

*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.*

*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 9th April 2015	1 - 8	-
3.	Appointment of Scrutiny Panels	9 - 12	All

**SCRUTINY ISSUES**

4. 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).*

5.	Forward Work Programme	13 - 18	All
6.	Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 9th July 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 Thursday, 9th April, 2015.**

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

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillor Strutton.

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Nazir, Coad and Pantelic

**PART I**

**57. Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Bal declared that a family member worked at Slough Borough Council and another at arvato.

**58. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 3rd March 2015**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015 be approved as a correct record.

**59. Member Questions**

None were received.

**60. Presentation by Francis Habgood, Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police**

The Chairman welcomed Francis Habgood, Chief Constable and Simon Bowden, Local Area Commander to the meeting.

Francis Habgood informed Members that HMIC carried out an annual assessment of police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy which was known as the PEEL Programme. Following publication details of the first PEEL assessment of Thames Valley Police (TVP) in November 2014, it was noted that TVP had a good track record at cutting crime and had seen one of the biggest reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour in England and Wales.

Key points were highlighted as:

- *Effectiveness – Good.* The force has
  - Low overall crime rates and maintains high levels of victim satisfaction.
  - Good understanding of local priorities and clearly targets resources at fighting crimes that matter most for local people.

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 09.04.15

- Extra staff in frontline roles and specialist teams investigating crimes such as child sexual exploitation (CSE) in spite of financial austerity.
- *Efficiency - Good.*
  - TVP was on track to achieve its required savings of £58.9m over this spending review period and to meet its further financial challenge in 2015/16.
  - Has a comprehensive and well managed strategy in place to achieve the required savings, whilst minimising as far as possible the impact on frontline policing.
- *Legitimacy*
  - TVP was acting to achieve fairness and legitimacy in most of the practices that were examined. The Chief officer Team provided strong leadership.
  - The Force was committed to embracing the Code of Ethics. There was good evidence of staff challenging unprofessional behaviour and effective systems were in place to identify wrongdoing.
  - The processes for identifying and addressing the risks posed by misconduct, unprofessional behaviour and corruption were effective.

Details of the Police Delivery Plan Strategic Objectives 2015/16 were outlined:

- i) **Cut Crimes that are of the most concern to the Community:**  
There had been a significant reduction in burglary and a continuous downward trend over the past four years.
- ii) **Increase the visible presence of the police: Special Constables / Mental Health.** There were currently 591 Special Constables. A new accreditation process being rolled out to ensure each special constable reaches independent patrol promptly. It was noted that the Roads Policing Team had won the South East Regional award. It was highlighted that the volume of mental health related incidents had risen. A successful Street Triage Pilot had been carried out in Oxfordshire and there were plans to roll the scheme out in Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and West Berkshire. There had been a 64% reduction in the number of people detained under Section 136 and being taken to custody.
- iii) **Protect our Communities from the most serious harm: Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) / Organised Crime Groups.** A comprehensive CSE action plan had been formulated and £3.5 million invested in dedicated resources since 2011. The Kingfisher Unit, which dealt specifically with CSE, had been established with Oxfordshire County Council. Multi Agency Safe-Guarding Hubs (MASH) had been set up in Bucks, Oxon, Milton Keynes, Reading, Slough and Windsor which were vital in ensuring various agencies

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 09.04.15

were working closely together to protect children from serious harm. Details relating to Organised Crime Groups in the locality were briefly outlined.

- iv) **Improve Communication and use of technology to build community confidence and cut crime.** Members were advised that the use of social media had been very effective in targeting communications to inform the public and providing reassurance to the public during large events. Social media provided TVP an opportunity to reach out to communities who may not otherwise necessarily engage with the police. It was also highlighted that a pilot scheme in which over 350 body worn cameras were distributed across 33 locations had been a success. The body worn cameras enabled officers/staff to give evidence remotely without having to attend court in person.
- v) **Increase the professionalism and capability of our people.** The Code of Practice became effective from July 2014 and provided a framework to maintain the highest possible standards to uphold the reputation and legitimacy of the police.
- vi) **Reduce costs and protect the frontline Priority Based Budgeting.** Members attention was drawn to the fact that TVP was one of three forces that had increased the number of Police Constables despite the current climate of austerity. It was anticipated that approximately £20 million savings would need to be achieved over the next 2-3 years, although the final figure would depend on the results of the forthcoming general election.

In the ensuing debate a number of questions/comments were made including:

- *Strategy/focus under new leadership?* The Chief Constable informed Members that he had been a part of the senior leadership team at TVP for over 11 years and was therefore well acquainted with the issues facing TVP. However there were undoubtedly new challenges for the force both in terms of types of crimes committed and financial pressures and the manner in which TVP responded to these challenges was key.
- *To what extent were mental health crimes an issue in Slough and what impact had the loss of NHS Mental Services in Slough had upon TVP?* Local Area Commander, Simon Bowden, explained that Section 136 detentions were monitored on a daily basis and working in conjunction with mental health professionals had led to a reduction in detention rates. Slough Borough Council Chief Executive, Ruth Bagley, further explained that the Local Authority would be looking at the findings of the Street Triage Pilot that had recently successfully been carried out in Oxford.
- *Low level of reporting of crimes by ethnic minority groups.* It was recognised that certain communities were reluctant to contact the police and Members were assured that work was being carried out with various communities to forge good relationships between them and TVP. Officers had been in attendance at Neighbourhood Action Group meetings and

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 09.04.15

regularly liaising with ward councillors. In response to whether language was a barrier, Committee Members were informed that TVP had access to Language Line and that language was not necessarily considered a barrier.

- *What actions were being taken to sustain TVP good performance.* The importance of preventative activity and working in partnership with Slough Safer Partnership (SSP) was emphasized. It was noted that SSP focused on specific problems and attempted to address the underlying issues in order to eliminate/reduce those specific crimes. TVP Management Team also monitored the types of crimes being committed and how to best make use of resources to address them.
- *How savings were likely to be achieved whilst safeguarding frontline staff?* The Chief Constable informed Members that 30% of the required savings would be made from non staff non frontline services.
- *Level of threat of terrorism in Slough?* Slough was rated as a Level 2 area – there were certain conditions in which radical extremism could grow – of which there were 37 areas across the country. Partnership activity and positive engagement were vital in addressing the issue.
- *Drugs and drug related activity in Slough.* The Committee were informed that the closure of over one hundred drug houses in Hackney had had a significant impact on neighbouring local authorities. Whilst acknowledging that the number of drug related incidents had increased, TVP were targeting their resources on disrupting the supply chain. Information provided by local residents was vital in addressing the issue and individuals could contact Crimestoppers anonymously if they did not wish to speak to TVP.
- *Measures taken to address Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).* Members attention was drawn to the measures that had been implemented following the Bull Finch Operation in Oxford. Key points included:
  - Recognising the issues regarding missing young people – return to home interviews.
  - Resources invested in investigations – 108 investigations currently in the TVP area.
  - Work relating to intelligence gathering and sharing with and/or communicating with other relevant agencies. Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs were vital in ensuring that the relevant agencies were aware of and involved when necessary.
  - Establishment of Kingfisher Unit in Oxford. The Unit was dedicated to recognising the signs of CSE and raising awareness of the issue via schools, teachers and local businesses' such as taxi firms and hotels.

It was noted that Slough's Local Safeguarding Children's Board had already implemented a number of the key learning points from Oxfordshire. In response to a Member question, the Local Area Commander informed the Committee that there were two current investigations in Slough in relation to CSE.

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 09.04.15

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Francis Habgood and Simon Bowden for their presentation and responses to Member questions. The Chair stated that he envisaged that the good working relationship between the Committee and Thames Valley Police would continue in the future.

**Resolved** – That details of the presentation be noted.

(Councillor Strutton left the meeting)

### 61. Slough Regeneration Partnership

The Committee were reminded that the 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 set out the strategic direction of the partnership, with governance arrangements, operational business arrangements and provided a rolling five year plan of activities for the SRP.

Substantial progress had been made with some key projects including:

- Construction of the Curve was well underway with the whole build project anticipated to be both on budget and within time. Although some unanticipated issues had come to light during construction, the handover date remained on target for late September 2015.
- Ledgers Road – planning permission had been granted for the development of 73 houses and flats, with 24 units purchased by the HRA and made available to Slough residents on the housing waiting list.
- Wexham Nursery Site - planning permission had been granted for 104 homes, 34 of which would be purchased by the HRA and made available to Slough residents on the housing waiting list.

A number of issues were raised in the ensuing discussion, including clarification regarding the anticipated capital receipts for the Ledgers Road and Wexham Nursery Sites and the net profit receivable from the development of the sites. It was noted that this information would be circulated to Committee Members following the relevant information being obtained.

In response to a Member question, the Chief Executive explained that Slough continued to attract new businesses to the area and that the occupancy rate of the trading estate had been at the highest level for the past twenty years.

The Committee were informed that there had been a considerable amount of interest relating to re-development of the former Thames Valley University site and that a number of options were currently being examined.

**Resolved** – That progress being made by the Slough Regeneration Partnership be noted.

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 09.04.15

### 62. Five Year Plan Update

Members were reminded that following consideration of the Five Year Plan at the previous committee meeting, it was agreed that the performance monitoring arrangements regarding scrutiny of the outcomes contained within the plan and the role that the Committee may play would be discussed in greater detail. The Head of Strategic Policy and Communications outlined the options available relating to monitoring the Plan which included:

- A revised corporate balance scorecard which was currently being developed.
- A new reporting template for each outcome based on the current 'Gold' project reports.
- Detailed review of the progress on individual outcomes.

It was brought to Members attention that regular monitoring reports would be submitted to the Committee as part of the amended version of the current performance and financial monitoring reports starting in the new municipal year.

A Member requested clarification relating to what measures were being implemented to ensure that Slough was the premier location in the South-East for businesses of all sizes to locate, start, grow and stay. The Chief Executive informed Members that although a temporary discount could be applied to business rates for new companies locating to the area, the Council's approach was to provide a range of support to the new businesses including identifying premises, advice about transport and facilities for employees and regulatory service support.

In the ensuing discussion a number of Members stated that effective scrutiny could only take place if each of the eight outcomes were examined in depth. It was agreed that the Scrutiny Officer would report to the next meeting proposals for monitoring the outcomes and which, if any, would be delegated to a Scrutiny Panel for examination. It was also noted that the Five Year Plan reporting frequency to the committee would be addressed at the next meeting.

**Resolved** – That the performance monitoring arrangements to be adopted by the Committee be reported at the next meeting.

### 63. Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15

The Scrutiny Officer presented details of the Annual Scrutiny report 2014/15 and invited Members to comment on the report. Key achievements during the past year were noted, including the findings of the Town Centre Parking Task and Finish Group.

**Recommended to Council** – That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2014/15 be endorsed.



## **Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 09.04.15**

### **64. Attendance Record**

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

### **65. Date of Next Meeting - Tuesday 16th June 2015**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.45 pm)

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Shabana Kauser  
**(For all enquiries)** Senior Democratic Services Officer  
(01753) 787503

**WARD(S):** All

**PART I**  
**FOR DECISION**

**APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY PANELS**

**1 Purpose of Report**

This report seeks approval to the establishment of a number of Scrutiny Panels and the nomination of Members to serve on them.

**2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Panels set out in paragraph 5.1 of this report be appointed for the 2015/16 municipal year.
- 2.2 That the Committee note the allocation of seats to the Panels (paragraph 5.2).
- 2.3 That the Committee agree the allocation of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Panels on the basis set out in paragraph 5.3 and that each Panel be invited to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting.
- 2.4 That Members be appointed to serve on each of the Panels in accordance with the wishes expressed by Political Groups in respect of seats allocated to them as set out in paragraph 5.4 below.
- 2.5 That the co-opted Members listed in paragraphs 5.5 to 5.7 below be appointed to the Education & Children's Services, Health Scrutiny and Neighbourhoods & Community Services Panels.

**3 Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

There are no implications for the Wellbeing Strategy priorities as this report is administrative in nature.

**4 Legal, Human Rights and Other Implications**

The recommendations meet the requirements of political proportionality as set out in Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and associated Regulations. There are no other implications arising from this report.

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 The Committee is being recommended to re-appoint three Scrutiny Panels for the 2015/16 municipal year.

5.2 Scrutiny Panel seat allocations have been calculated to reflect actual group membership and statutory proportionality entitlements as follows:

<b>Panel</b>	<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>
Education & Children's Services Panel	9	7	2
Health Panel	9	7	2
Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel	9	7	2

5.3 The Council's Constitution states that each Panel will consider electing a Chair and Vice-Chair at its first meeting. The Chairs of the Panels' will be offered to a member of the Administration. The Vice-Chairs will be offered to a member of the Opposition. A Panel may appoint any of its voting members if the offer is not accepted.

5.4 The political groups have been requested to nominate Members to sit on the Panels. Nominations received are set out below:-

**Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel** – Abe, Bal, Brooker, Cheema, Dhillon, Matloob, Morris, Rana, Pantelic.

**Health Scrutiny Panel** – Councillors Ajaib, Chahal, Cheema, Chohan, Chaudhry, M. Holledge, Pantelic, Shah, Strutton

**Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel** - Dar, Davis, N.Holledge, Malik, Mansoor, Morris, Plenty, Sohal, Wright

Education & Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

The Committee is asked to approve the appointment of the following education co-opted Members to the Education & Children's Services Panel:-

Voting Co-opted Members

(Church of England) - Nomination awaited from the Diocese

(Roman Catholic Church) – Jim Welsh

Parent Governor Representatives – Two nominations awaited from the Chairs of governing bodies.

### Non-Voting Co-opted Members

Head Teacher Representative – Maggie Stacey  
Secondary School Teacher Representative – Jo Rockall  
Primary School Teacher Representative – Nomination awaited

#### 5.5 Health Scrutiny Panel

### Non-Voting Co-opted Members

The Committee is asked to approve the appointment of the following health co-opted Member to the Health Scrutiny Panel:-

Healthwatch Representative – Colin Pill  
Member from the Buckinghamshire Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee  
– Nomination Awaited

#### 5.6 Neighbourhoods & Community Services Scrutiny Panel

The Committee is also asked to approve the following 2 appointments as non-voting co-opted members of the Neighbourhoods & Community Services Panel to speak on matters relating to housing:-

Active Tenant Group Representative – Nomination awaited  
Leasehold Forum Representative – Nomination awaited

#### 6. Background Papers

None

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**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Dave Gordon – Scrutiny Officer  
**(For all Enquiries)** (01753) 875411

**WARDS:** All

**PART I**  
**FOR DECISION**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 2015/16 WORK PROGRAMME**

1. **Purpose of Report**

For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to identify priorities and topics for its Work Programme for the 2015/16 municipal year.

2. **Recommendations/Proposed Action**

2.1 That the Committee:

- a) identify the major issues it would like to cover in the 2015/16 municipal year;
- b) agree, where possible, timing for specific agenda items during the 2015/16 municipal year; and
- c) consider whether there are any items which it would like to request one of the Scrutiny Panels add to their Work Programmes for the municipal year.

3. **Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

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

3.1 The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee leads the local authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.

#### 4. **Supporting Information**

- 4.1 The purpose of Overview and Scrutiny is to hold those that make decisions to account and help Slough's residents by suggesting improvements that the Council or its partners could make.
- 4.2 Prioritising issues is difficult. The Scrutiny function has limited support resources, and therefore it is important that the work scrutiny chooses to do adds value.
- 4.3 There are three key elements that make up the responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
- provide transparency and public accountability for key documents relating to the financial management and performance of the Council;
  - scrutinise significant proposals which are scheduled for, or have been taken as, a Cabinet/Officer delegated decision; and
  - strategic shaping of service improvements relating to the Cabinet Portfolios of Finance & Strategy and Performance & Accountability
- 4.4 In considering what the O&S Committee should look at under points two and three above, Members are invited to consider the following questions:
- *To what extent does this issue impact on the lives of Slough's residents?*
  - *Is this issue strategic and pertinent across the Borough?*
  - *What difference will it make if O&S looks at this issue?*
- 4.5 The topics listed include those suggested by Committee Members during the 2015/16 municipal year.

#### 5. **Suggested Topics**

- 5.1 It is generally recommended that a Scrutiny Committee should aim to look at no more than two or three items in any one meeting. This limited number can prove challenging, but does allow the Committee to delve down into specific subject areas and fully scrutinise the work that is being undertaken.
- 5.2 This list is summarised in Appendix A, including a list of, as yet, unprogrammed items
- 5.4 This will be a continuous process, and flexibility and responsiveness vital to success. It is important not to over-pack the Committee's agenda at the start of the year, which will not allow the flexibility for the Committee to adapt to take into consideration issues that have arisen during the year.

#### 6. **Resource Implications**

- 6.1 Overview and Scrutiny is supported by 1 FTE member of staff. This officer is responsible for support the O&S Committee and three Scrutiny Panels. Therefore, this is a finite resource and consideration must be given, in conjunction with the work programmes for the three Scrutiny Panels, as to how the resource is used during the year.



7. **Conclusion**

7.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee plays a key role in ensuring the transparency and accountability of the Council's financial and performance management, and strategic direction. The proposals contained within this report highlight some of the key elements which the Committee must or may wish to scrutinise over the coming municipal year.

7.2 This report is intended to provide the Committee with information and guidance on how best to organise its work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year. As previously stated, this is an ongoing process and there will be flexibility to amend the programme as the year progresses, however, it is important that the Committee organises its priorities at the start of the year.

8. **Appendices Attached**

A - Draft Work Programme for 2015/16 Municipal Year

9. **Background Papers**

None.

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2015/2016**

Meeting Date
Wednesday 17 June 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of scrutiny panels</li> </ul>
Thursday 9 July 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner</li> <li>• Children's Services – transitional project</li> <li>• Five Year Plan – scrutiny approach</li> </ul>
Thursday 10 September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abandoned vehicles</li> </ul>

**Currently Un-programmed:**

Issue	Directorate	Date
<u>High density housing</u>	CCS	
Transactional Services – Performance Report		Jan 2016
Casework – procedure		

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