

Date of issue: Wednesday, 4 April 2018

MEETING:	OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (Councillors Chohan (Chair), Chahal (Vice Chair), Chaudhry, N Holledge, Parmar, Rana, A Sandhu, R Sandhu and Sarfraz)
DATE AND TIME:	THURSDAY, 12TH APRIL, 2018 AT 6.30 PM
VENUE:	MEETING ROOM 3, CHALVEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, THE GREEN, CHALVEY, SLOUGH, SL1 2SP
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER: (for all enquiries)	NICHOLAS PONTONE 01753 875120

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.



NIGEL PALLACE
Interim Chief Executive

AGENDA

PART I

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
	Apologies for absence.		
	CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS		
1.	Declarations 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



AGENDA
ITEM

REPORT TITLE

PAGE

WARD

that interest and, having regard to the circumstances described in Section 4 paragraph 4.6 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed.

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.

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| 2. | Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 15th March 2018 | 1 - 6 | - |
| 3. | Action Progress Report | 7 - 8 | All |

SCRUTINY ISSUES

- | | | | |
|----|--|---------|-----|
| 4. | Member Questions | | |
| | <i>(An opportunity for Committee Members to ask questions of the relevant Director / Service Lead, relating to pertinent, topical issues affecting their Directorate – maximum of 10 minutes allocated).</i> | | |
| 5. | Five Year Plan - Outcome 5 Update | 9 - 14 | All |
| 6. | Votes at 16 | 15 - 18 | All |
| 7. | Annual Scrutiny Report 2017/18 | 19 - 48 | All |
| 8. | Annual Petitions Report 2017/18 | 49 - 66 | All |

MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

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| 9. | Members' Attendance Record 2017/18 | 67 - 68 | - |
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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.

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Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Meeting held on Thursday, 15th March, 2018.

Present:- Councillors Chohan (Chair), N Holledge, Parmar, Rana (until 7.32pm), A Sandhu, R Sandhu and Sarfraz.

Also present under Rule 30:- Councillor Plenty.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Chaudhry.

PART I

69. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

70. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 1st February 2018

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2018 be approved as a correct record.

71. Action Progress Report

Details on the current status of actions agreed were outlined for Members consideration.

Resolved – That details of the Action Progress Report be noted.

72. Member Questions

None received.

73. Adult Social Care Transformation 2018 - Annual Update

The Adult Social Care (ASC) Programme Manager, Simon Lawrence, provided the Committee with an overview of the progress made by the programme since 2015. The programme of work being undertaken had been devised to oversee improvements to social care practice under the Care Act 2014, the development of new ways of working, NHS integration and deliver £7.9m of savings for the period 2015-19.

Members were reminded of the background as to why change was required, which included:

- The current models of public service delivery and how they related to the public were not sustainable for the long term. In England the need for social care was rising from increasing numbers of older and disabled people (+2.8%), people with learning disability (+1.2%) and people with MH needs (+1.7%) between 2016 and 2017.
- Raising customer expectation and increasing choice and control

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 15.03.18

- Providers finding it difficult to retain & recruit staff, maintain quality improvements and margins (in 2017, 67% of LAs reported provider closures nationally)
- Since 206 local non-elective admissions to hospital had increased.
- Long term funding proposals were not sustainable unless they addressed the needs of the whole of the population and not just older people.

The Committee were informed that a number of measures were being implemented to address the issues raised. Preventative approaches were being developed to enable residents to become more able to support themselves to live independent and healthy lives. Capacity within the community, to enable a focus on supporting more people to manage their own health, care and support needs and targeting individuals most at risk of poor health were being developed.

Since 2013 there had been a 17% reduction in the Adult Social Care budget and the ASC Programme had been developed to manage demand and deliver savings of up to £7.9m. It was noted that the Better Care Fund (NHS contribution towards Adult Social Care) would cease in 2020. The Council in its budget setting had introduced a 3% precept on the Council Tax for 2018/19 towards Adult Social Care Services. Details of the main projects in Tranche 1(2015-17) of the programme were outlined, with specific focus on performance areas that required improvement.

Tranche 2 (2018-20) of the Programme highlighted the four key areas in delivery of the programme as new ways of working, develop social capital, implement integrated care and promote self care.

Members raised a number of issues in the ensuing discussion, including what services were available to individuals who required support from mental health services. Members were informed that a Social Prescription Service had been developed, which provided individuals with both support in the community and introduction to services available to them within the locality. Responding to what incentives were being used to recruit and retain key workers at Slough, the ASC Programme Manager confirmed that social care workers were paid a London weighting in addition to their salary and an apprenticeship scheme had been introduced. It was acknowledged that recruiting Domiciliary Care Workers was difficult and to ensure a consistent and constant supply of workers, the Council was working in partnership with the NHS via the Transformation Programme to address the matter.

Members requested that the Health Scrutiny Panel be requested to monitor the implementation of the Tranche 2 Implement Integrated Care and Promote Self Care outcomes and that the Overview and Scrutiny be provided with a progress update in six months time.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 15.03.18

Resolved - That details of the report are noted and specifically;

- a) The progress made in the delivery of the transformation programme.
- b) The cessation of important incomes streams namely the Better Care Fund (ceases 2020) and the time limited financial support provided by the Adult Social Care precept and the implications that this will have to the department.
- c) The increasing demand on services generated by the current case load and the future medium-term changes in population demographics in Slough and how this will impact the delivery and quality of services locally.
- d) The need for meaningful conversation with the Citizens of Slough regarding the impact that population and budget pressures will have and the role they have in supporting the vision for adult social care in Slough.

74. Revenue Financial Report 2017/18 - Quarter 3

The Committee were provided with an update on the latest revenue financial position for the Council for the 2017/18 financial year. At the time of publication of the report, the total estimated net commitment for the year across all service areas was £104.899m compared with a net budget for the council of £103.548m. This represented a budget pressure of £1.351m. However, there were planned in year savings of £0.699m that were still expected to be achieved and a number of additional savings including:

- a) Additional Savings - £107k within the Adult and Communities Directorate to offset the income shortfall on the Cemeteries & Crematorium and Registrars services.
- b) Contract Renegotiation - £350k – The Place and Development Directorate expected a saving resulting from the expected renegotiation of contracts.
- c) One off income - £252k – Further expenditure had been identified within the Finance & Resources Directorate as being eligible for funding from one off sources.

The forecasted budget pressures related to the Special Educational Needs Transport budget, due to an increase in the number of children who were eligible for the service; an overspend in temporary accommodation and Homelessness and an income shortfall in Cemeteries and Crematorium and Registrar services. Members were provided with an outline of management actions proposed to address the overspends which included a one off saving of £350k from contract revaluations.

A Member sought clarification regarding the age of the debts that were being considered to be written off and was informed that the majority related to cases that were pre April 2012. The Committee were assured that no cuts would be made to frontline services during the current financial year.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 15.03.18

- Resolved** – a) That details of the latest financial position be noted.
b) That the budget virements as listed in paragraph 7 of the report be noted.
c) That the write offs as detailed in paragraph 8 of the report be noted.

75. Review of Housing Allocations Scheme 2013/18

The Service Lead, Strategic Housing Services reminded the Committee that the introduction of the Localism Act 2011 enabled Local Authorities to make local decisions on who should be given priority for an allocation of social housing. Consultation had taken place on the current Housing Allocation Scheme, as agreed in 2014 and the proposed changes were highlighted as:

- **Community Contribution:** the Community Contribution priority be changed from one year to six months.
- **Priority for Disability and Medical:** It was proposed that these households receive additional preference and Band B priority. Applicants assessed as having some need to move on medical/welfare grounds are placed in band C. As at the end of March 2017 there were 69 applicants meeting this requirement. It was unlikely that those placed in band C on medical priority (unless in need of older persons accommodation) would ever receive an offer of social housing due to the large demand from band B.
- **One Offer Only:** That the current two offer policy is changed to one offer only. The current scheme enables two offers of social housing to be made. In the last year 123 offers of council property were refused. In some cases newly built properties were refused because there was no Right to Buy or Right to Acquire. A legal review process was in place to deal with the suitability of all offers.
- **Owner Occupiers:** In exceptional circumstances owner occupiers be enabled to join the Housing Register for an offer of designated housing for the over 60s.
- **Homelessness:** Qualifying homeless households are transferred to Band B irrespective of community contribution. It was also proposed that other agreed homeless households who do not meet the 5 year residence criteria are placed into Band C irrespective of community contribution.
- **Key Workers:** Key workers (Teachers and Social Workers dealing with vulnerable adults and children) are given reasonable preference when joining the Housing Register in relation to the specific pilot scheme being adopted in 2018/19.

It was noted that all 2,500 applicants on the Housing Register had been consulted and the majority of responses were in support of the proposed changes. The local MP had also responded, requesting that priority be given to those individuals under occupying properties and the Lettings and Void Manager confirmed that this had been addressed in the proposed changes.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 15.03.18

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Plenty sought clarification on the time period requirement for Key Workers and owner occupiers being eligible to join the Housing Register. It was explained that the five year residency in the borough criteria would be reviewed for key workers. Owner occupiers were currently unable to join the Housing Register and the changes being proposed would benefit an older person to move into older persons housing. However, a provision of selling or leasing the existing home would need to be in place to facilitate any offer.

Resolved – That details of the proposed changes to the Council’s Housing Allocations Policy, as detailed in the report, be noted.

76. Obesity Task and Finish Group - Final Report and Recommendations

The Scrutiny Officer detailed the findings of the Obesity Task and Finish Group. The Committee were reminded that the Group’s remit was to undertake work on making Slough Borough Council (SBC) an ‘exemplar Council’. This involved establishing a working environment where the health and wellbeing of staff was placed at the heart of policy making. Areas such as catering, work stations, workplace culture and options for physical activity were raised as part of this.

The Task and Finish Group arranged a variety of methods to gather its information. A workplace survey was held in the autumn of 2017 and received over 230 responses; at this time, Members also attended the staff canteen to see the food available to staff at SBC. Meetings were held with the canteen management, the Leisure Team, Human Resources and Facilities to hear about the workplace environment, and discuss how this could affect health and wellbeing. Finally, a site visit to Mars Confectionary saw an environment where a strategic approach had been taken to the matter.

Members noted details of the findings of the Task and Finish Group and endorsed the proposed recommendations.

Resolved –

- a) That the current food offer at Slough Borough Council be reviewed, to include canteen provision (e.g. traffic light labelling of food) and vending machines;
- b) That methods for increasing levels of physical activity and reducing levels of sedentary behaviour within work and outside work be implemented through behaviour change;
- c) That the incentivising of activity through outsourced services be supported (e.g. reduced cost for use of the Montem Leisure Centre);
- d) That engagement with senior leadership and Councillors be undertaken to establish a wellbeing ethos across the Council, which will include team / departmental ‘Health Champions’.

Overview & Scrutiny Committee - 15.03.18

77. Forward Work Programme

Resolved – That details of the Forward Work Programme be noted.

78. Members Attendance Record 2017/18

It was noted that Councillor Chahal had not attended two consecutive previous meetings of the Committee. In accordance with Part 4.5, Rule 2.5 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, a letter would be sent to Councillor Chahal, warning him of the impending revocation of his membership of the Committee, should he miss the scheduled meeting for April 2018.

Resolved – a) That details of the Members' Attendance Record 2017/18 be noted.

b) That a letter be sent to Councillor Chahal regarding his attendance at meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

79. Date of Next Meeting - 12th April 2018

The date of the next scheduled meeting was confirmed as 12th April 2018.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.25 pm)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Actions Arising from Meetings

11th January 2018

Minute:	Action:	For:	Report Back To: Date:
53	The potential to establish a Business Improvement District was raised and it was agreed that further information on the proposal be sent to members of the Committee.	Town Centre Manager	OSC 12 th April 2018

15th March 2018

Minute:	Action:	For:	Report Back To: Date:
73	Members requested that the Health Scrutiny Panel be requested to monitor the implementation of the Tranche 2 Implement Integrated Care and Promote Self Care outcomes and that the Overview and Scrutiny be provided with a progress update in six months time.	Health and Social Care	OSC & HSP 2018 – 19
73	Resolved - That details of the report are noted and specifically; The need for meaningful conversation with the Citizens of Slough regarding the impact that population and budget pressures will have and the role they have in supporting the vision for adult social care in Slough.	Health and Social Care	OSC Ongoing
76	Resolved – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the current food offer at Slough Borough Council be reviewed, to include canteen provision (e.g. traffic light labelling of food) and vending machines; b) That methods for increasing levels of physical activity and reducing levels of sedentary behaviour within work and outside work be implemented through behaviour change; c) That the incentivising of activity through outsourced services be supported (e.g. reduced cost for use of the Montem Leisure Centre); 	Public Health	OSC March 2019

	d) That engagement with senior leadership and Councillors be undertaken to establish a wellbeing ethos across the Council, which will include team / departmental 'Health Champions'.		
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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE: 12th April 2018
CONTACT OFFICER: Joe Carter – Director for Regeneration
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875844
WARD(S): All

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

FIVE YEAR PLAN: OUTCOME 5 UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the Committee (OSC) on the progress of Outcome 5 (with particular reference to key actions 1, 3, 5 and 6) from Slough Borough Council’s (SBC) Five Year Plan.

‘Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.’

1.2 These actions were chosen by OSC at its meeting on 14th September 2017 and are as follows:

1. Focus the council’s business inward investment and retention function on growing business rate income to support service provision.
3. Support businesses and partners to enable residents to develop skills to meet local employers’ needs.
5. Maximise the opportunities for local people from an expanded Heathrow Airport.
6. Cultivate a vibrant town centre

1.3 OSC is also asked to note that the 5 Year Plan has been refreshed, and the report is a retrospective view of the progress made on these actions in 2017 – 18. OSC will be asked to allocate scrutiny of the new key actions in 2018 – 19 at the start of the next Municipal Year.

2. Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

2.1 OSC is requested to consider and comment on the actions taken to deliver the key actions.

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

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

Outcome 5 of the 5 Year Plan relates to the following priorities of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy:

- Increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities

The 5 Year Plan has been developed using the evidence base of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Slough Story.

3b. **Five Year Plan Outcomes**

This report focusses on outcome 5 of the 5 outcomes in the Five Year Plan:

- Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

The Five Year Plan is important in determining the priority outcomes against which resources will be allocated. The time frame for the Five Year Plan is aligned with our medium term financial planning and will roll forward each year, i.e. the new Plan looks ahead for the five years 2018/19 to 2022/23.

(b) **Risk Management**

There are no identified risks associated with the proposed actions.

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

There are no direct legal implications. The specific activity in the Plan and other plans may have legal implications which will be brought to the attention of Cabinet separately. There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

(d) **Equalities Impact Assessment**

There is no requirement to complete an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) in relation to this report. EIAs will however be completed on individual aspects of any actions produced to sit underneath the Plan, as required.

5 **Supporting Information**

5.1 OSC decided to retain responsibility for Outcome 5 of the 5 Year Plan at its meeting on 20th December 2016. As with the 4 other Outcomes of the Five Year Plan, Outcome 5 has a series of key actions which set out what will be done to achieve the outcome – these are:

1. Focus the council's business inward investment and retention function on growing business rate income to support service provision.
2. Deliver infrastructure improvements to attract and support businesses.
3. Support businesses and partners to enable residents to develop skills to meet local employers' needs.
4. Deliver a Local Plan that supports economic growth
5. Maximise the opportunities for local people from an expanded Heathrow Airport.
6. Cultivate a vibrant town centre

This report focuses on the progress being made on key actions 1, 3, 5 and 6.

5.2 OSC is also requested to note that the Board overseeing Outcome 5 of the 5 Year Plan is establishing 3 key measures of progress. Once these are in place, they will form a central element of reporting on the outcome in 2018 – 19 and future years. It is anticipated that this will be in place for the outcome's report to Cabinet in July 2018, and will centre on access to employment, business rate income and journey times.

Focus the Council's business inward investment and retention function on growing business rate income to support service provision

5.3 SBC has held its first property investor day. This provided an ideal opportunity for Slough to showcase its economic strengths to potential investors, and for those involved in both housing and commerce to initiate conversations regarding the town's position as a vibrant economic centre with regional and international transport hubs to facilitate trade.

5.4 The work on this key action is already delivering support for service provision across Slough. Through our economic activity, SBC has generated an additional £3.5 million; this enabled the Council to balance its budget without having to make cuts to front line services whilst also maintaining relatively limited increases to Council Tax.

5.5 As a vital part of the investment required to generate growth in business rate income, SBC have acquired the former Thames Valley University (TVU) site to assemble the North West Quadrant ("NWQ") of the Heart of Slough Strategy. The current outline proposals for this mixed-use site include 250,000 sq.ft. of Grade A office space, which contribute to a gross development value of circa £600m and act as a major attraction for investors. As well as the growth in jobs and business that this will attract.

Support businesses and partners to enable residents to develop skills to meet local employers' needs

- 5.6 SBC has secured the funding for the 'Building Better Opportunities' project. This work will be a core element in developing residents' skills, as its aim is to provide the necessary assistance to residents currently out of work to obtain the requisite aptitudes to find opportunities in the local economy. The project is aimed at over 25s who are currently economically inactive or unemployed, and will be launched in the coming year.
- 5.7 Recognition of the opportunities open to local residents has come from external sources. In September 2017, Slough was named as the best place to live and work in the UK; this involved analysis of the jobs market, the cost of living and worker satisfaction. Given the existing number of major employers with head offices in Slough, the high proportion of 'start ups' and other innovative firms in the area and the expansion outlined elsewhere in this report, it is anticipated that local residents will have a wide range of opportunities from which to choose when selecting their future careers.

Maximise the opportunities for local people from an expanded Heathrow Airport

- 5.8 SBC has secured a Memorandum of Understanding. This will provide a clear partnership arrangement for the Council's co-operation with Heathrow Airport, and ensure that SBC is in a position to maximise the potential benefits to local residents. A major element of our joint work with Heathrow Airport will be to encourage the use of sustainable methods of transport to reduce congestion and improve air quality.
- 5.9 Slough Borough Council is one of the founding members of the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group (HSPG) representing 12 local authorities around the airport who have come together to seek to mitigate and benefit from the potential expansion of Heathrow. Slough Borough Council are the Accountable Body for HSPG and Chair the Transport Sub-Group.
- 5.10 The Director of Regeneration, in his capacity as Chair of the Transport Sub-Group, made representations in the Houses of Parliament to the Transport Select Committee examining the National Policy Statement (NPS) on future airport capacity.
- 5.11 Slough has also submitted its own comments to the Department for Transport on the NPS as well as responding to Heathrow's own recent informal consultation document on airport expansion.

Cultivate a Vibrant Town Centre

- 5.12 Slough is committed to altering the perception of the town centre. Having undertaken consultation with local residents and visitors, it was understood that the central issues limiting footfall in the High Street area were cleanliness and the retail opportunities available. As a result, a programme of work has

been initiated which is aimed at ensuring the area is clean, safe and vibrant. In addition, plans are being made so that the period between the end of the existing shopping centres and the establishment of the revamped town centre will see pop ups and similar attractions brought to the town to maintain visitor numbers and revenue for local businesses.

- 5.13 A brief for the Business Improvement District is being prepared. This will allow us to understand who is best placed to work on feasibility, the benefits of the District and the costs associated. This exercise will allow us to shape our forward strategy on the District and appoint (subject to feasibility) a consultant to deliver the project.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

The Five Year Plan and performance on Outcome 5 is regularly discussed by the Cabinet and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This specific report has not been considered by any other Committee within SBC.

7 **Conclusion**

OSC is requested to consider the progress made to date. The most appropriate manner in which to scrutinise the revised Outcome 5 will be addressed at the start of the new Municipal Year.

8 **Appendices Attached**

None

9 **Background Papers**

Five Year Plan 2017 – 2021.

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE: 12th April 2018
CONTACT OFFICER: David Gordon – Scrutiny Officer
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875411
WARDS: All

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

VOTES AT 16

1. **Purpose of Report**

1.1 For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to debate current proposals to reduce the age for the national franchise to 16 and consider suitable methods to indicate its support or otherwise.

2. **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- a) discuss the themes in this report and indicate whether they are supportive of a change in the voting age.
- b) recommend as to the appropriate method to represent their views on a change in the voting age.

3. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications of this report.

(b) **Risk Management**

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Recommend as to the appropriate method to represent the Committee's views on a change in the voting age.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee's remit results in recommendations not being taken any further	Overview and Scrutiny Committee may wish to consider escalating the matter (e.g. motion to Full Council)

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

The Representation of the People Act 1969 stipulates that the voting age in national elections is 18. Any variation to this would require national legislation; progress on this is discussed in sections 4.1 – 4.3.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

This report does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

4. **Supporting Information**

- 4.1 At present, the law in the United Kingdom stipulates that the voting age is 18. Whilst there have been variations to this (particularly since the Scottish Referendum of 2014, where 16 years olds were given the vote and are now allowed to participate in elections for local government and the Scottish Parliament), none of these have been effective in England.
- 4.2 However, there have been some moves to widen the Scottish policy. The Wales Act 2017 has been effective for over a year, and devolves the decision on the voting age to the Welsh National Assembly. Given the Welsh Government's support for a change in the age to 16, the Assembly is being asked to vote on this change later in 2018. This would allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in Council elections, although would not apply to the Welsh Assembly or the General Election.
- 4.3 Meanwhile, the House of Commons received a Private Member's Bill (led by Jim McMahon, MP for Oldham West and Royton) on the matter. Entitled The Representation of the People (Young People's Enfranchisement and Education) Bill 2017 – 19, it was introduced to the House in November 2017 and will resume debate on its second reading on 11th May 2018. The Slough Youth Parliament has also signalled its support for a change in the voting age, launching a campaign on the issue in February 2018.
- 4.4 As a result, members have requested that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee set aside time to clarify its views on the matter. It is recognised that the Committee does not have the capability to determine Slough Borough Council's stance on the franchise. However, the Committee may wish to provide a view for wider consideration.
- 4.5 A national debate on this has also been requested by the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee. This is a Select Committee of the House of Commons, and has requested that a national discussion of the issue of voting age be held.
- 4.6 In terms of statistics, the number of 16 – 17 year olds in the United Kingdom at present was estimated to be 1,490,000 in 2016. However, the proportion of these who would be able to vote given the qualifications on voting rights is not entirely apparent.
- 4.7 The potential impact on overall voter turnout is also not predictable. Whilst it has traditionally been the case that younger voters are less likely to vote than their older counterparts, some (although not all) studies of the 2017 General Election indicated that this trend did not apply to last summer's vote. Equally, youth

participation in the 2016 Referendum had been higher than historical trends had suggested (although still lagged behind other age groups). Evidence from Scottish votes involving 16 and 17 year olds has not indicated a major impact on turnout. However, this evidence is limited given the small number of elections involved.

5. **Comments of other Committees**

5.1 This report has not been taken by any other Committee of Slough Borough Council.

5.2 At Full Council on 21st April 2015, the following motion was taken:

This Council resolves to:

- Support the recent proposals to extend the franchise in all elections to 16 and 17 year olds as they are knowledgeable and passionate about the world in which they live and are as capable of engaging in the democratic system.
- Ask our local MP and the current coalition government, and any government formed after May's election, to back the policy announced by the Labour Party, and extend the franchise in all elections to 16 and 17 year olds alongside strong citizenship education.
- Recognise the important steps taken this year to establish a Youth Parliament and commit to working with them alongside Slough's schools and colleges to enhance citizenship education for all young people in Slough.
- Continue working with community groups, faith organisations, residential associations and other groups and people to make the electoral register as complete as possible.

This motion was passed by 31 votes to 6 (with 2 abstentions). As a result of this, a letter was sent to Fiona Mactaggart MP supporting the proposals and asking for her support.

6. **Conclusion**

6.1 The Committee is being asked to debate the voting age and its views on extending the franchise to 16 and 17 year olds. Once this is clarified, the Chair will ensure that progress is made on the next steps to take on the matter

7. **Appendices Attached**

None

8. **Background Papers**

Agenda Papers and Minutes, Council 15th April 2015

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SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 12th April 2018

CONTACT OFFICER: Councillor Chohan – Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(For all Enquiries) David Gordon – Scrutiny Officer
 (01753) 875411

WARDS: All

PART I
FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION

ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2017/18**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The last meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for each Municipal Year receives the draft Annual Scrutiny Report. The purpose of this cover report is to provide OSC 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 provide views on any other information that should be included in the Report.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 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 24th April 2018.

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

- 3.1 The Council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The OSC, alongside the 3 Scrutiny Panels combine to meet the local authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.
- 3.2 The work of scrutiny also reflects the priorities of the Five Year Plan, as follows:
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.
 - Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.
 - Our residents will have access to good quality homes.
 - Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs.

- Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives

3.3 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.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

The work of the scrutiny function is included within existing SBC budgets.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Endorse that the Report be presented to Council on 24 th April 2017.	The information and narrative provided in the Report is not agreed by the Scrutiny Committees	The Report has been submitted to Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committees for comment

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications. The work of scrutiny functions in local authorities is outlined in the Local Government Act 2000.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessments have been undertaken in scrutiny work where appropriate (e.g. the Obesity Task & Finish Group).

5. **Supporting Information**

5.1 Annual reports are an opportunity to review the scrutiny work programme for the past year and assess the impact scrutiny has had on influencing policy. 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.

5.2 The production of an Annual Report is a Constitutional requirement and in addition the Committee “must report annually to the full Council on future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.” OSC is provided with a draft of the Annual Scrutiny Report which highlights some key achievements from the year where Scrutiny has made a difference.

5.3 There is scope to build on and develop different methods of scrutiny next year; particular attention needs to be given on using overarching policy documents such as the Five Year Plan and how they should shape the work of scrutiny. In addition, members may wish to consider increasing the variety of methods used by scrutiny

(e.g. Task & Finish Groups, co-option of members). We will be undertaking some research into Scrutiny best practice for consideration at a future date.

6. **Conclusion**

- 6.1 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 (e.g. the Clinical Commissioning Group). 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 2017/18

7. **Background Papers**

Local Government Act 2000 (Section 21).

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Annual Scrutiny Report

2017/2018



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Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2017-2018 Annual Scrutiny Report. The report highlights the key areas of work that each panel and the main committee have concentrated on during the past municipal year.

In particular, the scrutiny committees have undertaken vital work on the following crucial issues:

- All four committees and panels have been involved with scrutinising the Five Year Plan. Having divided the plan into its five outcomes and allocated these as is appropriate to the remits of each committee; they have now commenced work on scrutinising specific themes and actions. In 2018-19, it is intended to use the Five Year Plan as a key document in driving the work of scrutiny; which has already been undertaken by the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Panel with positive effect.
- The point above has driven the commendable work of the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel on housing. This has also been supported by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (who have examined the Housing Strategy on a theme-by-theme basis) and ensured that members have had constructive input into one of the council's most important and dynamic areas of work during 2017-18. Through taking this approach, both committees have been able to examine the totality of the work taking place and make valuable contributions to the overall strategy.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a Task and Finish Group to investigate how to make Slough Borough Council 'an exemplar council' in reducing obesity. This review considered a wide range of information from internal and external sources (as well as receiving research on the area in preparation for their work) and its recommendations are outlined in the Overview and Scrutiny Committee section.
- The Health Scrutiny Panel has taken a particular interest in the area of mental health. Slough Borough Council's work in establishing Recovery Colleges, where previous service users mentor those currently receiving support, has been commended and saw the panel engaging directly with those who had benefitted from this innovation.
- The Health Scrutiny Panel has also continued to monitor the Transformation Programme for Adult Social Care. This has provided members with sight of the significant changes being made in provision, and provided corporate assurance that the decisions being made are in the interest of local residents. This has also applied to our offer to those with learning disabilities, where members have ensured that service users can access a new range of options with a greater emphasis on social interaction.
- Given the importance of the matter, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panels undertook a joint discussion on the local plan. While the broad objectives regarding increasing housing in Slough were welcomed, a series of priorities (mostly in the area of quality and diversity of the physical environment) were stressed for consideration in the compilation of the final Plan. Further details on this are available in the section on the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel.
- The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel have continued to work in collaboration with the Children's Services Trust. This will continue to be a key element of the panel's work in 2018-19.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have continued to finesse reporting on finance and performance. This has allowed members to engage more meaningfully at a strategic level, with the reporting structured to focus on areas of concern and provide clear guidance as to the issues being faced and the mitigation carried out to improve future performance.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also received two call-ins regarding Cabinet decisions; the acquisition of Nova House and the council's agreement with Slough Town FC regarding Arbour Park Community Stadium. By debating these matters in-depth, OSC was able to provide appropriate assurance to the Council that no further action was required.

- Scrutiny also received assurance on fire safety in the aftermath of Grenfell. This included the fact that the cladding in Slough Borough Council properties was not the type used at Grenfell, regular meetings of a Task Force were being held to monitor progress and a Mutual Aid Agreement provided Slough with external support in case of emergency.

I hope the report does justice to the quality of the work carried out by the panels this year and gives an insight into the diverse nature of the areas which have been scrutinised.

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. On behalf of all the chairs and vice chairs I would also like to thank sincerely all members, officers and partners who have contributed to the work of the overview and scrutiny function over the past year.



Councillor Nimrit Chohan
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Introduction

In 2002, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister set out the role of overview and scrutiny in local authorities, its powers and work.

“Overview and scrutiny is potentially the most exciting and powerful element of the entire local government modernisation process. It places members at the heart of the way in which councils respond to the demands of modernisation. In addition, overview and scrutiny is the mechanism by which councils can achieve community leadership, good governance and by which councillors can become powerful and influential politicians.”

In order to do this, Scrutiny Committees have three key roles:

- holding the cabinet to account
- policy development and review
- external scrutiny.

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 2017-18 municipal year.

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.

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.

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



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Councillor Sadiq (chair until 19 Dec 2017)
Councillor Chohan (chair from 19 Dec 2017)
Councillor Chahal (vice chair)
Councillor Chaudhry
Councillor N Holledge
Councillor Parmar
Councillor Rana
Councillor Sarfraz
Councillor A Sandhu
Councillor R Sandhu

Constitutionally, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will undertake the following:

- review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the executive, committees and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time
- review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets, data quality and/or particular service areas
- question members of the executive, committees and directors about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects
- make recommendations to the executive and/or appropriate committee and/or council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
- review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Committee and local people about their activities and performance
- question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

In order to undertake this work, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has appointed three standing panels to cover specific remits of works:

- Health Scrutiny Panel - undertaking the council's statutory responsibility to scrutinise provision of healthcare in the local area, as well as the cabinet portfolio for health and social care

- Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel - scrutinising the cabinet portfolio for education and children's services
- Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel - scrutinising the cabinet portfolios for housing and urban renewal, environment and leisure and transport and highways.

This delegation of work allows the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to take an overarching view of the work of the council and its partners, as well as specifically focusing on the cabinet portfolios of regeneration and strategy, transformation and performance and regulation and consumer protection.

Specific focuses of work

Budget pressures

Recent financial settlements for the local authority sector have prioritised budget management in all councils. Given its overarching remit, the committee has maintained its strategic overview of this area. This has taken the form of the work on the budget for all areas (conducted every February), regular monitoring of financial and performance information and specific investigations into areas such as adult social care and housing.

The Committee has continued to finesse the reporting it receives, to allow a clear narrative to emerge on the key themes faced by Slough Borough Council. Reporting has been amended to include more detailed information regarding the financial impact of measures taken to rectify issues. For example, key projects are reported and where these are rated as 'red', further scrutiny is undertaken. The Committee has also pursued further details on key projects, such as The Curve, and the transfer of education services in-house from Cambridge Education to ensure that 'lessons learned' are absorbed by the council and used to support continual improvement in service delivery. The benefits of these improvements have allowed for a greater focus to be placed on the areas that matter, as opposed to reporting all areas, regardless of the need for greater scrutiny on progress.

The budget was taken by the committee on 1 February 2018. Members supported the use of the new flexibilities for councils to use capital receipts, while questioning the fee levels for some services (e.g. burials and cremations). The committee will also track the progress being made on achieving planned savings by reducing agency staff. However, members were supportive of the council being able to keep the proposed increase in Council Tax at a level lower than the other five authorities in Berkshire.

The Housing Strategy

While the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel have provided the scrutiny of the Five Year Plan outcome for housing (detailed later in this report), the overall strategy has been scrutinised by the committee. The supply of new housing was the first to be examined, with the need for 20,000 new homes by 2036 making this the main priority. The committee has provided clear views as to the need for such housing to avoid an over-reliance on high-rise flats and to ensure that such developments need to support social cohesion and allow families to settle in Slough (rather than building solely for young professionals).

The committee has also addressed homelessness and housing for vulnerable groups. Emphasis was placed on the potential for the use of modular homes to provide temporary accommodation, while members also prioritised the re-housing of domestic abuse victims. However, given the growing prevalence of homelessness in Slough (and across the South East in general) this matter is likely to remain an area of interest to the committee in 2018-19.

The Housing Allocations Scheme has also been taken by the committee. Given the pressure on local housing, the committee has represented its views on the need to ensure that looked after children, key workers and long-term residents (defined as five years or more of residency) are supported in their applications for social housing. They have also supported Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel's request that anyone offering to downsize be given incentives (e.g. more than one offer for a new home).

Obesity

The committee discussed a review of the progress being made on recommendations included in the 2013 review into childhood obesity. While the progress on these was noted and welcomed, the need for an overarching obesity strategy remained and the committee established a Task and Finish Group to support one of the areas this would study; making SBC 'an exemplar council'.

The work of this group has now been completed, and is available as part of the agenda papers for the committee's meeting on 15 March 2018. The background research for the final report included the circulation of a briefing paper, a workplace survey (with over 230 respondents), discussions with key departments and stakeholders at Slough Borough Council and a site visit to Mars Foods. The review made the following recommendations:

- a) that the current food offer at Slough Borough Council be reviewed, to include canteen provision (e.g. traffic light labelling of food) and vending machines
- b) that methods for increasing levels of physical activity and reducing levels of sedentary behaviour within work and outside work be implemented through behaviour change



- c) that the incentivising of activity through outsourced services be supported (e.g. reduced cost for use of the Montem Leisure Centre)
- d) that engagement with senior leadership and councillors be undertaken to establish a wellbeing ethos across the council which will include team / departmental 'Health Champions'.

Progress on these recommendations will be reviewed by the committee in 2019. The committee will also be retaining responsibility for scrutinising childhood obesity in Slough.

Digital transformation

As Slough Borough Council's relationship with Arvato (provider of transactional services) continues to develop, Arvato's role in supporting easier online access to services is becoming increasingly prominent. With the handover of key contracts (e.g. environmental services returning in-house, Osbornes becoming the provider of the repairs, maintenance and improvements service for tenants) having seen Arvato undertake projects to support these, the committee has monitored this crucial work and provided feedback on progress ahead of the 'go live' dates for these online services in November 2017.

Police and crime commissioner

In conjunction with the Chief Constable for Thames Valley Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld attended the committee meeting on 16 November 2017. The recent assessment of policing across the Thames Valley as 'outstanding' in all areas (effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy) were welcomed, while it was also noted that crime levels were rising at a level below the national average. Members offered continued endorsement for the productive relationship between the police and the Safer Slough Partnership and offered to assist neighbourhood action teams in addressing anti-social behaviour. It was also welcome that, despite the overall reduction in Thames Valley Police's budget, the number of officers in Slough had increased. The committee will continue to be part of the positive relationship between the police, the police and crime commissioner, the Safer Slough Partnership and Slough Borough Council.

Corporate Strategy - The Five Year Plan

The committee has also ensured that the priorities of the cabinet, as set out in the new Five Year Plan, will be monitored effectively and regularly. The outcomes assigned to the committee are as follows:

- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.

The committee has received a report outlining the progress made on understanding residents' perceptions, promoting the town as a safe and vibrant place and social cohesion. While concerns remain regarding the perception of the town centre, the committee has recommended that the charges for events be reviewed to encourage greater take up. The committee is also keen to see progress on the Business Improvement District. In addition, safeguarding measures for taxi drivers and hotels have been evaluated and monitored. The committee also recommends that a residents' survey be undertaken to map local perceptions.

- Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents.

This will be the subject of a report to be taken on 12 April 2018 covering inward investment, developing residents' skills to meet the needs of employers, opportunities from Heathrow Airport expansion and the town centre.

Note: The full work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2017-18 municipal year is attached as Appendix A.

Health Scrutiny Panel

Membership

Councillor Rana (chair)
 Councillor Smith (vice chair)
 Councillor Ajaib (from 19 Dec 2017)
 Councillor Chaudhry
 Councillor M Holledge
 Councillor Pantelic (until 19 Dec 2017)
 Councillor Qaseem
 Councillor A Sandhu
 Councillor Sarfraz
 Councillor Strutton
 Colin Pill (Healthwatch Slough)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoints the Health Scrutiny Panel to undertake its constitutional role looking at the specific cabinet portfolio for health and social care. In addition, the Health Scrutiny Panel also undertakes the statutory council responsibility to scrutinise the provision for healthcare in the local area.

Specific focuses of work

Adult social care

The Adult Social Care Transformation Programme continues to be a key corporate priority. The Health Scrutiny Panel has monitored and supported the work of the adult social care team, which has been delivering the required changes to services and funding whilst ensuring the move from council control of provision to one where service users have more control.

The panel have scrutinised data on the 25 projects included in this programme, and offered views on the progress being made. In particular, members have raised some concerns that the proportion of Slough Borough Council's budget spent on adult social care was lower than that of neighbouring authorities. Despite this, they are supportive of the programme's progress and are assured that this is caused by the young local demographic and that the transformation programme is delivering the necessary savings while maintaining the quality of service provision. As noted in the section below on services for those with learning disabilities, they are also satisfied with the work being undertaken to address last year's questions regarding individualised care and the need to ensure that loneliness or social isolation are not caused.

Members will also be involved in the development of the communications and engagement strategy currently being developed by the adult social care team as a result of a request by the panel.

Members have also signalled their support for the Quality Assurance Framework for Adult Social Care. In particular, the focus on the needs of local residents, the relevant governance structures and the proactive approach taken to complaints were supported.

Frimley Park NHS Foundation Trust and the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership

The panel have continued to have oversight on the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, which has moved towards being an accountable care system during the course of the municipal year. The issue of governance and maintaining the role of local members in the new set up has been raised through the panel, and has also helped shape reporting on the partnership to ensure that the focus is on the seven work streams which form the programme. As part of this, the three East Berkshire CCGs will be merging in 2018 and the panel will ensure that progress on this is scrutinised in 2018-19.



The panel have also raised concerns over the impact of the partnership on the health and social care model. Recent reduction in access to GP surgeries had led to increased pressure on accident and emergency units. Members have requested that analysis of local geography and populations be undertaken to compile a model for service provision. This will then be open to public consultation for feedback on any proposals.

With regards to the Frimley Park NHS Foundation Trust, the panel has maintained its positive working relationship with the organisation. Prior to the meeting on 22 November 2017, the panel undertook a tour of Wexham Park Hospital, noting the radical transformation which had taken place both in terms of the physical environment and working practices. Subsequent to this, the panel was updated on the continued investment being made by the trust and were very supportive of the plans. The panel also wished Sir Andrew Morris (Frimley Park NHS Foundation Trust Chief Executive) well in his retirement, noted the extensive preparations which had been made to hand over to his successor, and looked forward to working with him in his new role within the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership.



Mental health

The panel have taken a particular interest in mental health in 2017-18. The panel supported Slough Borough Council's work to raise the profile of the service, with members attending the World Mental Health Day event at the Curve on 10 October 2017. The panel have also sought to support moves to bolster preventative care, with the work of Recovery Colleges receiving specific attention in January 2018.

The item on Recovery Colleges featured input from service users, who highlighted the importance of these institutions, in terms of working with the community, reducing isolation and providing support. On the last point here, the panel particularly commended the work of peer advisers who supported those facing issues they themselves had previously encountered. The panel has clearly signalled its intention to support this work and build a relationship with the service, with the matter to return to the panel for an update in 2019.

Services for users with learning disabilities

As Slough Borough Council has maintained its aim of improving community-based opportunities for activity, the panel has offered support and guidance on the proposals being made. With the closure of the Elliman Centre in 2017, work on the Phoenix and Priors buildings has been monitored by the panel. Extra investment in the refurbishment of these buildings was recommended, and the quality of the redesigned offer has been investigated by the panel. The panel were satisfied with the approach to quality assurance and the corporate response to any concerns raised about the quality of the service.

The panel have also scrutinised the results of a survey carried out in October 2017 regarding the revised service offer. The panel have supported the work, which respondents stated had improved the social opportunities for service users and the increased access to teaching on skills. However, they have also recommended that transport to and from these centres needs further improvement given the impact on access this was having for some in the community. The panel will monitor this aspect of the service in 2018-19.

Public health

The panel discussed the overall picture regarding public health in Slough; while some indicators remain less favourable than national averages, recent improvements in childhood obesity were welcomed and the impact of the council's work since the 2013 review was recognised. The forthcoming work of the Wellbeing Board on obesity was also addressed, and may be an area for collaboration between the two bodies in 2018-19.

The panel have also commented on the levels of smoking and drinking in Slough. As a result, they have recommended that the public health team give further consideration to the actions that could be taken to reduce the levels of public alcohol consumption and smoking in Slough's parks and open spaces.

Adult safeguarding

The panel have been keen to ensure that previous concerns around safeguarding have been addressed. In particular, the Slough Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report generated discussion on the need for all parties to provide the necessary 'critical friend' challenge to drive service improvement. As part of this, the panel welcomed the appointment of a chair who would also be responsible for the equivalent children's body. They also sought details as to the mechanisms to protect the board's independence, and the performance management of the chair. The panel were satisfied that these had improved after discussion.

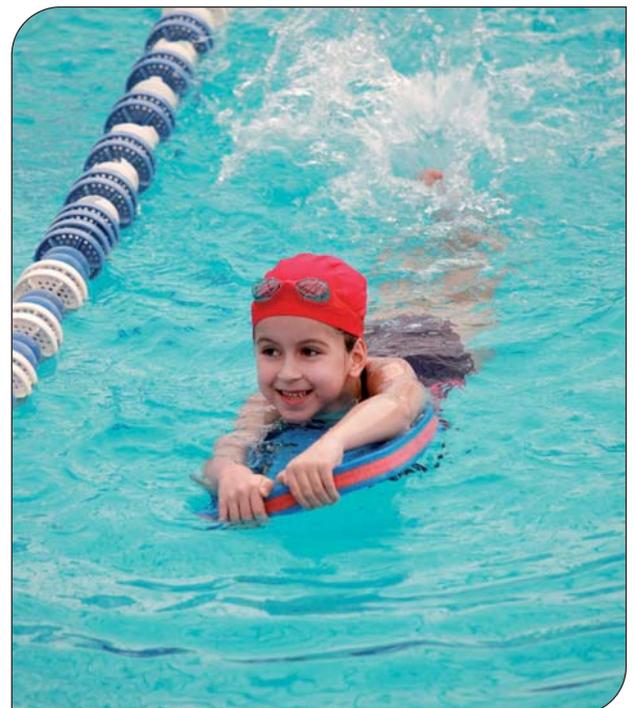
Corporate Strategy-The Five Year Plan

The panel has responsibility for the following outcome:

- our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs.

The panel took an overview of the outcome in August 2017. The resulting debate recommended that work be undertaken to ensure that all local communities were accessing health checks with equal frequency (although it was recognised that overall take up levels exceeded national averages). The panel have also prioritised work on adult safeguarding within this outcome, as discussed above in this section, as well as discussing the 'speaking up' model which provided service users with a suitable platform to raise their views and concerns.

Note: The full work programme for the Health Scrutiny Panel for the 2017/18 municipal year is attached as Appendix B.



Neighbourhoods' and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

Membership

Councillor Plenty (chair)
Councillor Kelly (vice chair)
Councillor Anderson (until 19 Dec 2017)
Councillor Bal (from 19 Dec 2017)
Councillor Davis
Councillor N Holledge
Councillor Mann (until 19 Dec 2017)
Councillor Parmar (from 19 Dec 2017)
Councillor Rasib
Councillor Sharif (from 19 Dec 2017)
Councillor Swindlehurst (until 19 Dec 2017)
Councillor Wright

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoints the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel (NCS Scrutiny Panel) to undertake its constitutional role looking at the specific cabinet portfolios for corporate finance and housing, planning and transport and environment and leisure.

Specific focuses of work

Fire safety and emergency planning

The first panel meeting of the municipal year was held in the shadow of the Grenfell Tower disaster. Given the importance of the matter and the need for assurance, a written question was taken which was discussed in depth by officers and members. The panel was informed as to the establishment of a task force which (amongst other responsibilities) was analysing cladding. This allowed officers to confirm that no Slough Borough Council blocks were using the cladding which was present at Grenfell; despite this, the quality of cladding would continue to be monitored. Members also received confirmation that Slough Borough Council was part of a Mutual Aid Agreement which covered Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

The importance of the issue also led to an update being taken in the autumn. Broom and Poplar Houses were undergoing improvement works to bolster their fire safety, with the compartmentalisation of apartments the focus (rather than cladding). Sprinkler systems for the Council's two high rise blocks were also being prioritised.

On a related matter, the council's Emergency Plan was checked by the panel in January 2018. This provided assurance that the plan had been recently updated (late 2017), contacts were regularly checked as being up to date and that the existing Memorandum of Understanding which was part of the Mutual Aid Agreement avoided the co-ordination issues which had hampered emergency efforts at Grenfell.

Housing

The panel's main focus, resulting from its allotted outcome from the Five Year Plan, has been the council's housing service. Using the overview report on the outcome taken in June 2017, the panel has scrutinised the following three key actions in depth:

- housing allocations policy
- regulation of the private rented sector
- making best use of existing public housing stock.

The Housing Allocations Policy was taken in September 2017. While the panel noted the pressure on the housing stock (and the backdrop of rising homelessness), they raised the possibility that the reduction in offers of housing to tenants from two choices to one meant that a wider range of factors should be considered when making the offer (e.g. schooling arrangements). The panel also noted the different priorities of key workers to the majority of other applicants for Slough housing and raised the possibility of making mortgage-based offers rather than ones solely related to a specific property. However, they supported the proposed changes to the policy, with the exception that tenants offering to downsize should receive more than one offer for a new property. This will now be included in the final policy to be proposed to cabinet in April 2018.

Regarding regulation of the private rented sector, the panel focused on the council's attempts to resolve the issue of rogue landlords. Given the complexity of the situation in Slough (e.g. a number of these cases related to competence as opposed to malice) the panel recommended that resources be targeted on this rather than universal registration. The panel also welcomed the work undertaken in Chalvey to pilot licensing of homes under multiple occupation and supported its extension across Slough. The panel reinforced its views on downsizing in discussions of existing public housing stock, recommending that incentivising it be prioritised in future policy.

Services for tenants

The municipal year saw the handover of the pivotal Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements (RMI) contract to Osborne Property Services Limited (OPSL). The panel received updates in the build up to the transfer, providing security to members that the process had been robust and would lead to an improved service. In particular, the panel sought specific details as to how the management of void properties and the time taken to hand over from one tenant to another would improve. This was taken in November 2017 and was welcomed by members, but the matter will continue to be scrutinised (as will OPSL's performance overall).

The panel also examined the work undertaken on garages. Members reflected their concerns that, previously, garages were in poor condition; undertakings were given but not fulfilled and there had been a lack of engagement with residents and councillors. However, they were satisfied that the work by OPSL had addressed these issues and would lead to future improvements. Given this, they endorsed the proposed programme of redevelopment and refurbishment for garages, and will monitor progress on the matter.

Local plan

The overarching nature of this document saw it taken as a joint agenda item with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Members stressed the need for housing to be sympathetic to the diverse areas of Slough (e.g. high rise living may be more suited to the town centre than outlining districts). Members also supported the plans to ensure that the period between the demolition of existing buildings in the town centre and the opening of new facilities provided alternative amenities (e.g. 'Pop Up' attractions). Given the dynamic nature of change in Slough at present, members will continue to take an interest in developments in future.

In its final consideration, the panel recommended that the following matters be considered in the compilation of the final version of the Local Plan:

- space for infrastructure and playing fields
- the need for high quality design
- suitable transport facilities
- a mixture of types of housing

- a variety of retail options
- landscaping and the creation of a 'tree rich' environment.

The panel will also return to the Local Plan in 2018-19.

Performance management

The panel has worked on ensuring that the information it receives can be examined in a meaningful and productive fashion. Throughout the municipal year they have worked with the neighbourhoods and housing teams to refine the bank of information presented to them, which has led to a series of scrutiny overview indicators being taken by the panel on a regular basis. They have also used it to highlight areas to report to the panel by exception (e.g. performance on voids) where issues have arisen. The chair of the panel will be meeting with officers in April 2018 to complete this and ensure that the panel can monitor the work of the teams effectively throughout 2018-19.



Safer Slough partnership

Following on from the discussions at the last Crime and Disorder Reduction Panel, the NCS Scrutiny Panel evaluated the work of the Safer Slough Partnership. The panel were keen to provide their support for the continued work of the partnership in relation to the safety of Slough's public spaces. In particular, the dedicated focus of the Parks and Open Spaces Task and Finish Group was commended, as was the focus on long-term mitigation (e.g. work with schools) as well as short-term solutions (e.g. reducing the number of 'blind spots' in parks). This has led to a decrease in sexual offences that was above the national average rate of decline, and the panel's satisfaction with progress was reported back to full council on 28 November 2017.

Air quality

Members raised the issue in light of statistics regarding health problems and mortality caused by local air quality. While the panel recognised the limits of the council's powers on the matter (e.g. Air Quality Management Zones are undermined by high levels of traffic) it was keen to support and prioritise work being done. The panel indicated its interest in innovations such as Clean Air Zones, but also understood the cost of setting one up (£100,000) and the radical implications of such measures.

However, the panel recommended that all council decisions in future consider the impact on air quality and incorporate measures in the Low Emission Strategy. This strategy is due to come before full council in the summer of 2018; at this stage, the panel may wish to discuss environmental policy in more depth.

Corporate strategy-The Five Year Plan

The panel has responsibility for the following outcome:

- our residents will have access to good quality homes.

The work done on this is detailed earlier in this section.

Note: The full work programme for the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel for the 2017/18 municipal year is attached as Appendix C.



Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

Membership

Councillor Brooker (chair)
 Councillor Kelly (vice chair)
 Councillor Anderson (until 19 Dec 2017)
 Councillor Carter (until 19 Dec 2017)
 Councillor Chahal
 Councillor Chohan
 Councillor A Dhaliwal (from 19 Dec 2017)
 Councillor N Holledge
 Councillor Matloob (from 19 Dec 2017)
 Councillor Pantelic (until 19 Dec 2017)
 Councillor Qaseem
 Councillor Sharif (from 19 Dec 2017)
 Jo Rockall (secondary teacher representative)
 Maggie Stacey (head teacher representative)
 Hamzah Ahmed (Slough Youth Parliament)

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoints the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel (ECS Scrutiny Panel) to undertake its constitutional role looking at the specific cabinet portfolios for children and education.

Specific focuses of work

Slough Children's Services Trust

Having now completed its second full year of operation, the trust continues to be a key area for member engagement. With co-operation now established through bodies such as the Joint Parenting Panel, the ECS Scrutiny Panel has a vital role to play in supporting this partnership working to secure the best outcomes for local children. The panel have welcomed the establishment of a permanent leadership team at the trust and the successful proposal to launch a programme for victims of domestic abuse ('Inspiring Families') which received an Innovation Grant from the government of £1.4 million.

However, the panel have also expressed their concerns that some Ofsted feedback from recent monitoring visits had highlighted a slower pace in improvement than was desired. Assurance was provided that this was being raised with the trust's mentor organisation (Essex County Council) and that subsequent visits had been more positive on the matter.

The trust's use of the Public Law Outline system (which was designed to make progress in cases which were not moving on as desired) was also noted as improving. As a result, the panel have been assured that the aim of achieving a 'Good' Ofsted rating within three years of the Trust's inception remained on track.

Safeguarding

The last Ofsted report had highlighted Section 11 Audits as a weak area for Slough Borough Council. These audits ensure that council services which are not directly linked to children's services are still aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding. In 2016-17, the panel had noted that Section 11 Audits were now in place but did not have the desired analytical rigour. The panel therefore welcomed the appointment of 'champions' within service areas to promote the importance of safeguarding, whilst taxi drivers have also now received training on the matter. Finally, the panel sought and received assurance that the new service providers for the repairs, maintenance and improvements contract for housing and Environmental Services would also receive training and guidance on safeguarding.



School standards and improvement

The high proportion of local schools which are academies or free schools have seen Slough Borough Council adopt innovative strategies to support education. The panel have expressed their support for the work of the Slough Teaching School Alliance, which liaised with local schools and also encouraged them to co-operate in submitting joint proposals to receive additional funding. The panel had also backed the moves for partnership working between schools (e.g. Upton Court Grammar assisting Ditton Park School with teaching higher achieving students) and the arrangement between Beechwood and Herschel Grammar Schools.

The results of these efforts by Slough Borough Council since the education service returned in-house have also been commended by the panel. In particular, the work to improve outcomes at early years foundation stage and to close the gender gap between boys and girls (who have achieved better outcomes, both in Slough and nationally) while maintaining the levels of attainment in the female intake, have been welcomed. The panel will continue to take an interest in ensuring that disadvantaged children close the gap with their peers, and that white British children do not lag in terms of the 'Progress 8' measure, which measures the value added by schools (a national as well as local trend').



Joint Parenting Panel

The Joint Parenting Panel (jointly run by Slough Borough Council and the Children's Services Trust) is a key element of the council's corporate parenting role. Given its pivotal nature, it has started to report to the panel on a quarterly basis. The panel will continue to work alongside the Joint Parenting Panel to support its strategic focus and welcomed the tone of recent meetings, which had emphasised a co-operative approach.

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel have also pledged to ensure that the need for the councillors on the Joint Parenting Panel to have greater continuity of membership will be reinforced. This will continue to be monitored by the panel in 2018-19 with a view to getting councillors to support the work of the body as effectively as possible.

Adult education

While the work on 16-18 year olds has been welcomed (covered in section below) the panel has continued to express concern regarding adult education. While aspects of the 2018 Ofsted inspection had improved (in particular safeguarding), the overall rating remained 'requires improvement'. The issue of the standard of teaching and its ability to motivate learners remained an area which the panel concluded had hampered progress. The panel requested details as to how upcoming teacher recruitment, training and monitoring would improve the service; this will return to the panel in 2018-19 for a progress update.

Corporate strategy - The Five Year Plan

The panel has responsibility for the following outcome:

- our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.

The panel have taken the following three key actions as agenda items:

- ensure children and young people are supported to be safe, secure and successful
- enable children and young people to enjoy life and learning, to feel confident about their futures and aspire to achieve to their individual potential
- support young people into employment, education and training.

On the first of these, the panel raised waiting times for access to Children's and Adolescents' Mental Health Services (CAMHS) as an area for further information and received an update on the statistics for Slough as a result. They also received assurance that cases of neglect were being resolved through child protection conferences.

With regards to enjoying life and achieving potential, the panel were satisfied that recent improvements in early years foundation stage provision had moved Slough from below national averages, to above them in the past year. They also recommended that teachers be prioritised as 'key workers' in the allocation of housing.

On the last matter, the panel were very happy to provide their backing to the numerous strands to the council's efforts to limit the number of 16-18 year olds not in employment, education and training. This was recognised as a regional leader and put the number of such young people in Slough well below national and local averages.

Note: The full work programme for the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel for the 2017/18 municipal year is attached as Appendix D.



Looking Forward

In terms of ensuring that scrutiny has a strategic focus, members will be supported in using the Five Year Plan to map their priorities and work for 2018-19. The Five Year Plan is refreshed each year and the new Five Year Plan has now been approved by full council. The five outcomes have been slightly reworded and each has a series of priorities for the year ahead and the longer term which will be used to develop the work programme for scrutiny.

It is no coincidence that the best work undertaken by scrutiny in the past year has been based on Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel's series of 'deep dives' into their allocated outcome. This has seen the panel engage at the appropriate level, offering considered and specific feedback on the council's proposals.

Where there are matters for more in-depth reviews, members are reminded of the opportunities offered by task and finish groups. With the one conducted this year (obesity) having allowed members to receive diverse input from workplace surveys, site visits and detailed conversations with council departments, a series of detailed recommendations emerged with a clear plan on measuring progress in 2019. Some commentators have suggested that committee meeting may not be the most productive environment for in-depth scrutiny of the impact of policies. By conducting an investigation into a specific area, and using methods that are not constrained by the procedures of committee meetings (e.g. site visits, bespoke research, questionnaires for service users) a sense of the realities for service provision can be gained. It also allows for members to make a number of highly specific recommendations, based on input from a wide range of individuals or external organisations that may rarely attend our committees.

The scrutiny function is also a key element in engaging with the public. While task and finish groups offer one route of organising public outreach events, methods by which the committees can face outwards to local residents may also need consideration. While the number of co-opted members has increased (with the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel appointing a representative of the Slough Youth Parliament and the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel appointing three local residents), each committee can appoint up to six.

Ensuring that meetings gain greater publicity (especially where specific agenda items attract particular local interest) could also raise the public prominence of the function.

With the current climate of austerity now well established across local authorities, councillors have become well accustomed to operating within constraints. However, the financial year 2018-19 promises to be one of particular hardship, and preparations for the required changes will be a central element of our work. In terms of specific areas, adult social care has become an area in need of transformative change; members are well apprised of this and have placed the matter at the centre of their plans. However, members are reminded of their responsibilities in this area. Given recent events regarding local authorities finding themselves in difficult financial positions (and the National Audit Office's recent report suggesting the situation may become tougher), members are asked to ensure that budgets, reserves and spending plans are suited for the difficult decisions that they may be asked to make.

Scrutiny committees in 2018-19 should also give consideration as to how it can engage more effectively with cabinet. The constitution currently stipulates that attendance by lead members is at the invitation of the chair; this has been used sparingly in 2017-18. In addition, while members have commented and made recommendations on policy proposals, these have not been fed directly to cabinet with the frequency that would give the function the desired prominence. Members may wish to consider how they can ensure that decision makers are being held to account with sufficient rigour.

Members are also reminded that the scrutiny officer will be receptive to any fresh ideas, skills or ideas which enhance the process of effective scrutiny. Whether the members for 2018-19 are long established or participating in these bodies for the first time, all can contribute fully to the process.

Appendix A: Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2017/18

Meeting Date	Meeting Date
13 June 2017	11 January 2018
Administrative Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointment of panels • Work programme 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transactional Services - Half Year Report • Housing Strategy - Themes 4 (homelessness and housing need) and 5 (special needs and vulnerable groups) • Five Year Plan - Refresh for 2018-19/2022-23 • Five Year Plan - Outcome 3 (Slough will be an attractive place) Key Actions 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 • Performance and Projects Report - Quarter 2 • Transport Strategy
13 July 2017	1 February 2018
Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thames Valley Transactional Service - Annual Report • Performance and Project Report - Quarter 4 • Financial Report - Final Outturn 2016-17 • Five Year Plan - Outcome 3 (Slough will be an attractive place) Overview 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Revenue Budget 2018-19 o Treasury Management Strategy 2018-19 o Capital Strategy 2017-2023
14 September 2017	15 March 2018
Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation and Delivery of Key IT Projects • Housing Strategy - Theme 1 (New Housing Supply) • Five Year Plan - Outcome 5 (Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents) 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Social Care Transformation 2018 - Annual Update • Review of Housing Allocations Scheme • Obesity Task and Finish Group - Final Report and Recommendations
Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obesity in Slough • Performance and Project Report - Quarter 1 	
30 October 2017 (Extraordinary Meeting)	12 April 2018
Call In <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Acquisition of Town Centre Site (Nova House) 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five Year Plan - Outcome 5 (Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents) Key actions 1, 3, 5 and 6 • Slough Urban Renewal • Votes at 16
16 November 2017	Information Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Petitions - annual review
Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call in: Arbour Park Community Stadium - Slough Town Football Club Agreement With Slough Borough Council • Thames Valley Police and crime commissioner • Obesity Task and Finish Group - Terms of Reference • Housing - future scrutiny approach 	Endorsement Item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny Annual Report

Appendix B: Health Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2017/18

Meeting Date	Meeting Date
10 July 2017	22 November 2017
Administrative Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of chair • Election of vice chair Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reconfiguration of the Borough's activity offer for people with learning disabilities • Progress update on the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme 2015-19 • Frimley Health and Care Sustainability and Transformation Programme 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS Frimley Health Foundation Trust • CCG Operational Plan 2017-19 • Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust - Annual Report • Frimley Health and Care System
31 August 2017	18 January 2018
Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventative Mental Health Services in Slough • Five Year Plan - Outcome 2 (Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs) Overview • Frimley Health and Care Sustainability and Transformation Programme 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Public Health Care Programme • Adult Social Care - Local Account 2016-17 • Recovery Colleges
10 October 2017	26 March 2018
Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slough Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report • Involvement of residents in shaping adult social care services • Quality management of adult social care services 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STP Update • Learning disabilities - Programme Update • Five Year Plan - Outcome 2 (Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs) - key actions 1, 3 and 5 • Autism Strategy • Disabled access to health centres

Appendix C: Neighbourhood and Community Services Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2017/18

Meeting Date	Meeting Date
26 June 2017	16 January 2018
<p>Administrative Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of chair • Election of vice chair <p>Scrutiny Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Slough Partnership - update • Vehicle actuated signs • Five Year Plan - Outcome 4 (Access to Good Quality Homes) Overview • Neighbourhood and Housing Scrutiny Overview Indicators 	<p>Scrutiny Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood and Housing Scrutiny Overview indicators • Five Year Plan - Outcome 4 (Access to Good Quality Homes) - Make Best Use of Existing Housing Stock • Emergency Plan • Development initiative Slough housing • 2018-19 Housing rents and service charges
7 September 2017	4 April 2018
<p>Scrutiny Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Housing Allocations Scheme 2013 - 18 • Repairs, maintenance and improvements contract • Neighbourhood services garage licences and review of garage sites • CCTV in the local community • Slough local air quality and Low Emissions Strategy 	<p>Including Crime And Disorder Reduction Panel</p> <p>Constitutional Item</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New co-opted members: residents' panel <p>Scrutiny Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thames Valley Police - overview • Prevent programme • Fly tipping • Neighbourhood and Housing Scrutiny Overview indicators
2 November 2017	
<p>Scrutiny Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan (NOTE: this item was held jointly with Overview and Scrutiny Committee) • Resident involvement • Voids process and performance relating to council homes • Five Year Plan - Outcome 4 (Access to Good Quality Homes) - Robust regulation of the rented sector • Fire safety 	

Appendix D: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2017/18

Meeting Date	Meeting Date
18 July 2017	8 February 2018
Administrative Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Election of chair Election of vice chair Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five Year Plan - Outcome 1 (Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives) Overview School improvement partnership Soulsbury pay scale 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slough Children's Services Trust - second year achievements Ofsted 4th Monitoring Visit Five Year Plan - Outcome 1 (Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives) 'Enjoy and Achieve''
25 October 2017	14 March 2018
Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted third monitoring visit Five Year Plan - Outcome 1 (Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives) 'Stay Safe' Section 11 audits Childhood obesity 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five Year Plan - Outcome 1 (Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives) 'Achieve Economic Wellbeing' 14-19 Provision Ofsted inspection adult education School standards and effectiveness Joint Parenting Panel - quarterly update
7 December 2017	18 April 2018
Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elective home education Joint Parenting Panel - quarterly update 	Scrutiny Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School to school support in Slough Progress with SEND reforms School place planning

This document can be made available on audio tape, braille or in large print, and is also available on the website where it can easily be viewed in large print.

Annual Scrutiny Report 2017/2018

If you would like assistance with the translation of the information in this document, please ask an English speaking person to request this by calling 01753 875657.

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज में दी गई जानकारी के अनुवाद कए जाने की सहायता चाहते हैं तो कृपया किसी अंग्रेजी भाषी व्यक्ति से यह अनुरोध करने के लिए 01753 875657 पर बात करके कहें.

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਬੋਲਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਨੂੰ 01753 875657 ਉੱਤੇ ਕਾਲ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਬਾਰੇ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਕਹੋ।

Aby uzyskać pomoc odnośnie tłumaczenia instrukcji zawartych w niniejszym dokumencie, należy zwrócić się do osoby mówiącej po angielsku, aby zadzwoniła w tej sprawie pod numer 01753 875657.

Haddii aad doonayso caawinaad ah in lagu turjibaano warbixinta dukumeentigaan ku qoran, fadlan weydiiso in qof ku hadla Inriis uu ku Waco 01753 875657 si uu kugu codsado.

اگر آپ کو اس دستاویز میں دی گئی معلومات کے ترجمے کے سلسلے میں مدد چاہئے تو، براہ کرم ایک انگریزی بولنے والے شخص سے 01753 875657 پر کال کر کے اس کی درخواست کرنے کے لئے کہیں۔

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 12th April 2018**CONTACT OFFICER:** Shabana Kauser, Senior Democratic Services Officer
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 787503**WARDS:** All**PART I**
FOR INFORMATION**ANNUAL PETITIONS REPORTS 2017/18****1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with details of the Annual Petitions Report and to provide Members with an opportunity to comment on the report.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is requested to note the Annual Petitions Report 2017/18.

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.

3b. Five Year Plan Outcomes

Overview and Scrutiny covers all of the five year plan outcomes:

- Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives.
- Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs.
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit.
- Our residents will have access to good quality homes.
- Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents

4. Other Implications**(a) Financial**

There are no financial implications of this report.

(b) Risk Management

None associated with this report.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

None associated with this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None associated with this report.

4. **Supporting Information**

4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, an annual summary detailing all petitions submitted under the Petitions Scheme will be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.2 For the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 a total of 27 petitions were received - 23 paper petitions and 4 e-petitions. The table below summarises the subject matter and total number of signatures received for each petition.

Paper Petition Title	Signatures
17-05 - Opposition to Introduce Resident Parking on King Edward Street	59
17-06 - Kings Road Residential Parking Only	39
17-07 - Martin Road Residents Parking Only	19
17-08 - Stop Implementation of Double Yellow Line in Kings Reach POS	41
17-09 - Implementation of a Parking Permit Scheme in College	26
17.10 - Stop Construction of Communal Parking Bays in Salt Hill Way	74
17-11 - Overgrown Grass Verges Ronaldsay Spur	11
17-12 - Petition to Remove Residents - 34 Brammas Close	29
17-13 - Australia Road Parking Issues / Commercial Activities in Residential Area	16
17-14 - Proposed School in Chalvey	118
17-15 - Proposed Closure of Car Park in Sheehy Way	222
17-16 - Parking Bay Request The Cherries	17
17-17 - Montem Leisure Centre - Lack of Maintenance - Increase in Spa Membership	34
17-18 - Traffic Calming Measures on Rokesby Rd, Wentworth Ave & Calbroke Rd	53
17-19 - Lack of Maintenance & Unsocial Behaviour on Merton Road	22
17-20 - Ryvers Road Parking Bays Request	19
17-21 - Save Our Wellbeing Gym	261
17-22 - One Way Traffic System – Belgrave Road	43
17-23 - Petition Against Foxborough Close Cut Through Closure	72
17-24 - Canada Road Parking Issues	14
17-25 - Parking Restrictions Bradley Road/Stoke Poges Lane	115
18-01 - Change Residents Parking at Malvern Court	22
18-02 - Kestrel Path and Vaughan Way Parking	23

Date Range: 1st April, 2017 to 31st March, 2018 - 4 - ePetitions

ePetitions Title	Signatures
Double yellow lines at the rear of 179 to 255 Humber Way	14
Change Tuns Lane to Avenue Of Remembrance	3
Bus Facilities for Children from Cippenham to Langley covering 3 to 4 Grammar Schools	104
Windsor Link Railway	13

Responses to the petitions are detailed in Appendix A.

5. **Conclusion**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members are requested to note details of the report.

6. **Appendices Attached**

A - Annual Petitions Report 2017/18

7. **Background Papers**

None.

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Annual Petition Summary Report**

APPENDIX A

Date Range: 1st April, 2017 to 31st March, 2018

23 - Paper Petitions

4 - ePetitions

Page 53

Paper Petition Title	Signatures	Date Responded / Response
17-05 - Opposition to Introduce Resident Parking on King Edward Street	59	<p>18th Apr 2017 Thank you for the submission of the above petition on 5th April 2017.</p> <p>The Council also received a petition in favour of the introduction of residents permit parking on King Edward Street. In order to get the most accurate picture of resident opinion, we compared individual addresses rather than the number of signatures, as both petitions contain multiple signatures from each property. The results are inconclusive; therefore we will be undertaking some further investigation and consulting with the Ward Councillors to make a decision on how best to proceed.</p> <p>No timescales have been set for this project at present, and residents are welcome to contact Councillors for updates, contact details for them can be found at www.slough.gov.uk</p>
17-06 - Kings Road Residential Parking Only	39	<p>3rd May 2017 I am writing in response to your petition dated 27th April, 2017 in which you have requested residents parking on Kings Road.</p> <p>This has been added to a current scheme for the area which our engineers are already working on and we hope to have the designs ready for publication by the summer. We will write to all affected residents with details of the proposal and an opportunity to comment on our designs so please look out for this.</p>
17-07 - Martin Road Residents Parking Only	19	<p>11th May 2017 I am writing in response to your petition dated 2nd May 2017 in which you have requested residents parking on Martin Road.</p> <p>This has been added to a current scheme for the area which our engineers are already working on and we hope to have the designs ready for publication by the summer. We will write to all affected residents with details of the proposal and an opportunity to comment on our designs so please look out for this.</p>
17-08 - Stop Implementation of Double Yellow Line in Kings Reach POS	41	<p>6th Jun 2017 I am writing in response to your petition regarding the double yellow lines in Kings Reach Public Open Space.</p> <p>Following on from your meeting with Slough Borough Council on 2nd June, 2017 I can confirm</p>

		that the Highways team will look into your request further and consider if there are any other alternatives to the restrictions currently in place. Parking Services will then liaise with your local Councillor on this matter, who will provide you with the necessary updates.
17-09 - Implementation of a Parking Permit Scheme in College	26	<p>2nd Jun 2017</p> <p>I am writing in response to your petition in which you have requested residents parking on College Avenue.</p> <p>I can confirm we have previously received a petition for this request on 20th April, 2016. At the time of our previous response, this request was linked with another scheme which we could not pursue. We have since received a number of petitions requesting residents parking on the surrounding roads and our engineers are working on the designs which we hope to have ready for publication by the summer. We will write to all affected residents with details of the proposal and an opportunity to comment on our designs so please look out for this.</p>
17.10 - Stop Construction of Communal Parking Bays in Salt Hill Way	74	<p>27th Jun 2017</p> <p>I am writing in response to the above petition where residents asked to stop the construction of communal parking bays and have requested residents parking on Salt Hill Way instead.</p> <p>I can confirm I have added this location to the waiting restrictions request list for residents parking to be considered. This list will close at the end of the year and work will not commence until the beginning of next year.</p>
17-11 - Overgrown Grass Verges Ronaldsay Spur	11	<p>22nd Aug 2017</p> <p>I am writing to you following our recent conversation and the petition received from the Ronaldsay Spur residents.</p> <p>It has been agreed that all the parking areas in Ronaldsay Spur, Sumburgh Way, Kirkwall Spur and Lerwick Drive will have the parking areas cleaned by a mechanical road sweeper. This is a one off approach as continual use from this equipment will damage the parking area.</p> <p>Once the weeds have been removed we will be able to maintain the area to ensure that it does not get into that condition in the future. Our grounds maintenance contractor Amey is going to provide me with quotes for the overgrown bushes and shrubs around the area including the ones that are the tenant's responsibility. I will inform you when work is scheduled to be completed and keep you informed with the method agreed to keep the area maintained in the future.</p> <p>If you require any further information regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
17-12 - Petition to Remove Residents - 34 Brammas Close	29	<p>23rd Aug 2017</p> <p>I am contacting you with reference to the petition that you issued to the Council, from the residents of Brammas Close.</p> <p>The property concerned is rented privately, we have contacted the Leaseholder and the Managing Agent of 34 Brammas Close. We have listed the allegations raised in the petition and requested that they ensure the issues are resolved.</p> <p>With regards to the incidents of anti-social behaviour that you have stated on the petition, we</p>

		<p>would ask that you keep a record of the incidents that yourself and the other residents have witnessed and return them to the Leasehold department. Some of the incidents as raised maybe police matters and these should be reported directly to the police at the time the incidents take place.</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to advise you of the importance of keeping an Evidence Log, particularly if legal action becomes necessary. We may need to prove to the courts that the alleged perpetrator(s) have been behaving in an anti-social manner and that an order is necessary for the protection of person/persons from further anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>I would therefore ask that you return any completed sheets within four weeks and return to Leasehold Services at the address as below, or via e-mail to Leaseholdservices@slough.gov.uk.</p> <p>If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me again.</p>
17-13 - Australia Road Parking Issues / Commercial Activities in Residential Area	16	<p>8th Sep 2017</p> <p>I am writing in response to your petition regarding parking issues on Australia Road caused by a car sales business which is located at the end of this road.</p> <p>As you are aware, we are currently not enforcing the residents permit scheme that was implemented on Australia Road and the surrounding roads. We have submitted an application to the Department for Transport for an authorised special sign so we can start enforcement but until we receive this, we are unable to enforce against non-residents that are parking in this manner.</p> <p>However, if these vehicles are parking on the double yellow lines or in any disabled bays, then we will be able to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to them. I will reiterate this information to our enforcement contractors and will ask them to ensure regular visits are being made to this location.</p> <p>In the meantime, I can confirm I have reported the car sales business to our Planning Enforcement team who are currently investigating this matter further.</p> <p>If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
17-14 - Proposed School in Chalvey	118	<p>13th Sep 2017</p> <p>I write on behalf of the Council to respond to the petition received on Friday 18th August, 2017 in relation to the proposal to build a new all-through (primary and secondary) school and community facilities in Chalvey.</p> <p>As set out in the narrative, the Council has been working with the Educational Funding Authority (EFA) for some time to deliver this substantial education-led regeneration project. Subject to receiving planning approval, you are correct to highlight that central government will fund the construction of a new all-through school.</p> <p>To do so, the EFA will fund the demolition of the existing shops and offices (Dawson House) on Ladbrooke Road and the existing community centre and nursery. The community facilities will be replaced by a new community hub which will include Chalvey Early Years Centre to be funded by</p>

		<p>the EFA. This new hub will be owned by the Council and will provide flexible space to be used by local residents and community groups to meet current and future needs. As a minimum, it will provide exactly the same level of space provided in the existing building, however the expectation is that it will include new services and may be larger. Temporary community facilities will be provided during the construction period to ensure the continuity of local services.</p> <p>This petition, which was signed by 118 local residents, acknowledges that a considerable number of local people support the proposals, however you have highlighted that transport related matters are a concern. I can confirm that the applicant will address these concerns through the planning process and that consultation meetings will be arranged to allow local residents to express their views and opinions on the proposals.</p> <p>Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information.</p>
17-15 - Proposed Closure of Car Park in Sheehy Way	222	<p>25th Sep 2017</p> <p>The land at Sheehy Way is not a public car park given that the Housing Department, who own the site, do not operate and manage it as such.</p> <p>This Housing site would not be for the exclusive use of the Temple/clubs on Sheehy Way without some formal agreement or permission and that the site was originally intended for the use of local housing residents. These are not in place.</p> <p>The Temple use this land due to general lack of management of the site as a car park. This land has been proposed as part of the phased development of much needed new council homes in the borough as it is on housing owned land.</p> <p>A planning application has been recently submitted by SUR in partnership with the council itself, and as such this petition should be submitted to the planning committee and relevant planners for consideration.</p>
17-16 - Parking Bay Request The Cherries	17	<p>31st Oct 2017</p> <p>I am writing in response to your recent petition sent into Slough Borough Council regarding parking.</p> <p>This petition has been passed to me as the Tenancy Team Leader for Neighbourhood Services covering the area in question.</p> <p>I am sorry to hear that you are having issues with parking. This does seem to be an issue in a number of areas in Slough as car use has increased dramatically over the years.</p> <p>I can confirm that the grassed area that you have identified is in the ownership of Slough Borough Council's Housing Department.</p> <p>As the land owner we are willing to consider making changes to the parking provision by way of giving permission for works to be undertaken subject to Planning and Highways approval. However The Housing department's funding is such that we can only use the budget for matters</p>

		<p>relating to rented housing. This means that given all the properties listed in the petition being privately owned we cannot at this time fund the car parking changes you are requesting from the Housing revenue account.</p> <p>I will ask the Highways team to see if they have any funding available and get some idea of the costs involved. I can not give you an exact timescale but we will try to get the quotation as soon as we can.</p> <p>I apologise for the delay in getting this response to you, this was due to investigations carried out by several other teams.</p> <p>I hope this is an appropriate and helpful reply to your initial complaint and if you have any further questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me on the numbers provided above.</p> <p>If however you are not satisfied with your response you can appeal to the department Director or Head of Service to review the reply.</p> <p>Complaints Coordinator Regeneration, Housing & Resources, (Landmark Place) Slough Borough Council St Martins Place 51 Bath Road Slough Berkshire SL1 3UF</p>
<p>17-17 - Montem Leisure Centre - Lack of Maintenance - Increase in Spa Membership</p>	<p>34</p>	<p>15th Sep 2017</p> <p>I am in receipt of a copy of your petition, received on the 5th September, 2017 which was forwarded from Democratic Services.</p> <p>Your comments were addressed relating to the lack of maintenance first, namely the Jacuzzi being out of action for many months and the tropical shower not working. The Jacuzzi was out of action for a long period of time under the previous leisure operator, Slough Community Leisure. Everyone Active took over the operations of Montem Leisure Centre on 1st June 2017 and since then the Jacuzzi has been operational. The Tropical Shower was installed seven years ago by Slough Community Leisure and has never worked, this was due to poor installation. In order to fix the tropical shower the SPA floor will need to be completely removed to expose the pipework, which is a very costly and lengthy exercise. We have taken into consideration that Montem will close in early 2019 and the cost of the repair and have made the decision not to repair the shower.</p> <p>There are occasions when the SPA will be closed. This will be due to the temperatures and chemical readings falling outside of HSE guidelines. In this situation it is imperative to shut the SPA until it is safe to use. We do apologise for any inconvenience you may have experienced during these times. A reactive repairs contract has been commissioned by Everyone Active to ensure that when breakdowns occur they are dealt with as quickly as possible.</p>

We have recorded the following issues with the SPA which may have resulted in a short closure. These faults were fixed as soon as possible with new parts being installed that should prevent future issues.

- Spa heating fault recorded and repaired on 11th August - £192
- Spa callout for chlorine injector on 4th and 5th September - £196
- Spa callout 26th and 27th July, fuses and pumps replaced - £684
- Spa callout 24th and 25th June spa pump replaced - £1212
- Spa callout 29th July and replace fuse - £98

Everyone Active has completed numerous enhancements to the SPA since they took over the management of Montem on 1st June 2017, including:

- 2 x new spa loungers
- New clock
- New sauna bulb/fittings
- Repair to the fire door
- Installed CCTV which includes spa coverage
- Increased cleaner hours
- All showers have been serviced
- All SPA lights have been replaced, including the steam room
- New card readers have been installed for entry into the spa

Member hygiene is a common reason why the Jacuzzi has to close. There are signs displayed in the SPA area requesting that members shower before using the facilities to remove moisturisers and oils as cosmetic products will clog up the pipe work. If the water is highly polluted, more water than usual will need to be replaced. This will then result in a lengthier close as the water will need to reach the correct temperatures before it can re-open. If members continue to ignore these signs the issues will not improve, we will look at placing more prominent signage in the SPA to highlight this issue.

Montem management have checked on a number of occasions for bad odours and have been unable to detect these. We are in the process of replacing the service's pipework that runs alongside the SPA and this should make a difference if there are any related issues.

In relation to increased charges, the membership itself has not increased however the SPA is an additional charge at Montem. The SPA at Langley Leisure Centre was poolside and as such was open for swimmers to use. The SPA at Montem is separate and is far bigger with more facilities. Montem users have always been required to pay the additional £5 to use the SPA. We cannot treat Langley and Montem members differently so we will continue to charge the SPA at an additional £5 per month (£1.25 per week for unlimited use).

If you have any further issues in regard to the operations of Montem Leisure Centre please contact the Centre Manager, direct.

<p>17-18 - Traffic Calming Measures on Rokesby Rd, Wentworth Ave & Calbroke Rd</p>	<p>53</p>	<p>16th Oct 2017</p> <p>Following your paper petition received by Democratic Services on 2nd October, 2017 which was subsequently forwarded to me for consideration, your local Councillor has been in touch to discuss the petition and any possible measures that could be taken forward.</p> <p>With regards to your concerns in relation to parking I can confirm that your local Councillor has also been in liaison with the Parking department and as a result, Rokesby Road will be considered for the pavement parking scheme. This scheme would ban vehicles from being able to park with 4 wheels on the pavement and would involve an engineer conducting a site visit to the affected location. The engineer would also measure the width of the road and footways, and then design a scheme which promotes safety for all road users.</p> <p>If you would like the Authority to also consider implementing the pavement parking scheme on Wentworth Avenue and Calbroke Road then you would need to contact your local ward councillor and request this. Please see the following web address for the process to implement new parking restrictions;</p> <p>http://www.slough.gov.uk/parking-travel-and-roads/obstructive-parking.aspx</p> <p>With regards to reports of speeding and safety for vulnerable road users we will commission a traffic survey in the area during a neutral period (either November 2017 or February 2018). After the results of the survey are analysed and considered we will determine if any further action can be taken subject to available funding. We will also liaise with the relevant ward Councillors during this time to better understand the prevalent issues and consider potential solutions.</p> <p>If in the meantime you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me by email at TfS@slough.gov.uk</p>
<p>17-19 - Lack of Maintenance & Unsocial Behaviour on Merton Road</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>17th Nov 2017</p> <p>In answer to your petition above, I will give the fullest answer I can on the point's raised.</p> <p>There is something in the region of 15 thousand trees in Slough's parks, highways and open spaces, and several woodlands. Legislation requires that these trees need to be regularly inspected for defects and remedial work undertaken where required.</p> <p>The budget for maintaining these trees is limited and is spent predominantly on works needed for health & safety grounds. Unfortunately we do not have the finance available to undertake individual pruning requests unless the work requested is also needed for safety reasons. However one exception to this would be where the trees are causing significant property damage.</p> <p>At this time the Council owned trees are inspected every three years and the three Lime trees at the end of Merton Road were last inspected on the 23/11/16. The tree outside 1 Merton Road was found to have decay fungi on the base and accordingly it was itemised to be pruned to insure its stability, and this has now been completed. The two other trees did not have the same problem so these trees were not selected for pruning.</p>

		<p>The Council does not routinely undertake heavy reductions, such work is only undertaken where there is a justifiable reason, amongst reasons that would justify such work would be:- to remedy or lessen structural problems or because the trees have been historically subject to such reductions and where they are likely to have decay at the reductions points.</p> <p>In cases where it is alleged damage is being caused by one of the Councils trees, the Council will require professional evidence supporting the allegation, this is normally obtained by the property owner's insurer who are involved due to a claim being made to them. Please note it is not the responsibility of a tree owner to undertake routine investigations in the properties adjacent to their trees to prove that their trees are not causing damage. If anyone can supply evidence that a Council owned tree has caused damage to their property, where appropriate the matter will be forwarded to the Councils insurers.</p> <p>In respect to the pruning in The Grove, this is carried out when necessary for highway sight lines and footway access, which is not always the case in other streets.</p> <p>The shrubbery at the junction of Merton Road, Hatfield Road and St Laurence Way is pruned annually in the winter which is the maintenance schedule for types of areas throughout the Borough.</p> <p>The shrubs opposite by the car park have received additional pruning at the request of the parking team to enable for safety reasons a higher visibility of the vehicles and users in the car park.</p> <p>Regarding the 'unsocial behaviour' you refer to, if fly tipping is either reported by residents or seen by officers it is removed from the location within forty eight hours and instances of fly tipping can be reported directly to Amey or to the Council both by telephone or through the Council's web site.</p> <p>Antisocial behaviour can be reported to the Council's Resilience & Enforcement team using the anti-social behaviour form on line or by telephone to the twenty four hour number 01753 875298; alternatively reported to the police on their 101 number.</p> <p>At this time the Resilience & Enforcement team have no reports of ASB or rough sleeping in this area.</p> <p>The Council's policies and processes relating to the matters you raised are all available on the Council's web site for your future reference.</p>
<p>17-20 - Ryvers Road Parking Bays Request</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>15th Nov 2017 I am writing in response to your petition in which you have asked for the grass verges on Ryvers Road to be converted into parking bays.</p> <p>Unfortunately we do not currently have the specific funding to carry out these works, however you may wish to contact your local ward councillors as they may have some funding allocated to their ward to carry these works under the Community Investment Fund.</p>

		<p>Please see below the contact details for your ward councillors:</p> <p>Councillor Preston Brooker Email: preston.brooker@slough.gov.uk Mobile: 07791 913 555</p> <p>Councillor Michael Holledge Email: michael.holledge@slough.gov.uk Mobile: 07795 975 740</p> <p>Councillor Mandeep Rana Email: mandeep.rana@slough.gov.uk Mobile: 07957 334 387</p>
<p>17-21 - Save Our Wellbeing Gym</p>	<p>261</p>	<p>16th Nov 2017</p> <p>I am in receipt of a copy of your petition, received on the 15th November, which was forwarded from Democratic Services.</p> <p>The wellbeing suite was created by the previous leisure operator Slough Community Leisure. As part of the new contract, which began in June, Everyone Active purchased the equipment. This was to keep the service running for as long as possible until the new leisure centre, currently under construction, opens in March 2019.</p> <p>The new leisure centre on Farnham Road is smaller than Montem Leisure Centre and as a result transferring services have been reduced. Unfortunately, there are no other Council owned facilities within Slough that can accommodate the equipment. To ensure that members with health conditions are still fully supported, referral schemes and classes will be available to integrate users of the wellbeing suite into the main fitness facility.</p> <p>Furthermore, we are working with Everyone Active to provide a far larger and further reaching outreach programme to take more sessions out into the community. Classes such as seated exercise, yoga, healthy walks and tai chi will continue to be available, which would be suitable for members who would benefit from gentler exercise. The new centre will also have a large cafe area where members can continue to socialise.</p> <p>We understand that the wellbeing suite has benefited a number of members over the years and it is with regret that we are not able to transfer the service to the new centre. The Council and Everyone Active are working closely together to ensure that there will be a variety of options for previous members of the wellbeing suite and we are positive that you will be exceptionally happy with the new facilities planned for both Langley Leisure Centre and the new leisure centre when they open.</p> <p>The wellbeing suite will remain open and available to users up to February 2019, when Montem Leisure Centre will close to the public.</p>

<p>17-22 - One Way Traffic System – Belgrave Road</p>	<p>43</p>	<p>5th Jan 2018 I am writing in response to your petition regarding your request to introduce a one way system on Belgrave Road.</p> <p>We have undertaken a site visit to determine whether your road is suitable for a one way street and as part of this visit we will be undertaking further investigations to check the benefits of introducing a one way restriction.</p> <p>If not properly introduced one way streets have a tendency to encourage speeding, therefore before any decision is made we will undertake traffic surveys to identify the volume and speed of vehicles on Belgrave Road.</p> <p>Furthermore, we will also look at any recorded accidents on this section and subject to the results and funding we will determine whether we can introduce a one way restriction on this section.</p> <p>If you require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
<p>17-23 - Petition Against Foxborough Close Cut Through Closure</p>	<p>72</p>	<p>19th Dec 2017 Thank you for submitting a signed application form dated 7th December, 2017, for a modification to the definitive map and statement along with user evidence in the form of template letters and a petition signed by residents in surrounding roads.</p> <p>There is a statutory process with forms set out in (statutory) Regulations that should be used to make such an application. Using the correct statutory forms and process means that the application can be validated by the Council. The applicant for a validated application has certain important appeal rights which they may not be able to use if the application is made in a non-complaint way. Applicants are therefore strongly advised to make use of the correct application forms and follow the statutory process carefully.</p> <p>However, if evidence suggesting that a right of way subsists comes to the attention of the Council by another means (such as in a letter accompanied by evidence of use) then the Council will still investigate that evidence.</p> <p>As regards user evidence forms, Councils use such forms to gather the detailed evidence that experience shows will be needed when the Council comes to investigate the matter. Letters can be accepted but often do not contain the detail that is required, or do not clearly express the detail that is required. Letters that do not contain relevant details and are not accompanied by a signed map showing the route in question will usually be given less evidential weight than a fully completed form with an attached signed map.</p> <p>As we discussed, the letters you've submitted as evidence do not contain the user's address, are all worded the same and none of them are accompanied by a signed map showing the route in question. Though I appreciate the difficulty with asking people to</p>

		<p>complete the statutory forms I do feel that in light of this, I can confirm that the application you have submitted is not duly made, but that the evidence you have submitted will be investigated.</p> <p>I also acknowledge and will take account of the historic OS map brought to my attention dated 1910- 1923.</p> <p>Please contact me if you have any queries on the above and I will be in touch in due course.</p>
17-24 - Canada Road Parking Issues	14	<p>15th Jan 2018 I am writing to you in response to your petition regarding the health and safety and parking issues on Canada Road.</p> <p>With regards to the parking issues that have been raised, I can confirm we will be going out to consultation at the end of this week to help introduce a residents permit scheme on Canada Road and the surrounding roads. If implemented, this will assist with the parking problems you are currently facing.</p> <p>Furthermore I have liaised with our Planning Enforcement Team on the health and safety matters and unfortunately they are unable to take any action as there are no planning conditions attached to the permission that has been obtained by this local business.</p> <p>If you have any further questions regarding this then please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
17-25 - Parking Restrictions Bradley Road/Stoke Poges Lane	115	<p>4th Jan 2018 Thank you for the comments to this consultation. I can confirm they have been logged.</p> <p>The consultation has now ended however we will shortly be collating and analysing all the consultation responses and a decision will be made on how best to proceed. Once a decision has been made, we will write to you with the outcome and any points you have raised will also be addressed.</p> <p>In the meantime, if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>
18-01 - Change Residents Parking at Malvern Court	22	<p>8th Feb 2018 I am writing in response to your petition regarding the parking issues on Hillrise.</p> <p>I understand from this petition that residents would like:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The double yellow line on Hillrise to be removed and replaced with residents only parking on both sides with bays painted half on and half off the pavement, or 2. The double yellow line to be replaced with a single yellow line allowing residents to park from 6pm to 8am, with the other side changed to residents only parking <p>Unfortunately we are not able to consider either of these options and my reasons for this are detailed below.</p>

		<p>The pavements at this location are not wide enough to accommodate parking bays half on and half off the pavement. We have to ensure there is a minimum width of 1.8m available on the pavement for pedestrians and as this would not be possible on Hillrise, we cannot authorise this. The current design of a double yellow line on one side of the road allows vehicles to pass safely on the carriageway as vehicles can park on the other side of the road, and also means the pavements are available for pedestrians to use.</p> <p>The second suggestion of replacing the double yellow line with a single yellow line cannot be considered as this would then allow vehicles to park on both sides of the road in the evening which would cause access issues for all road users' particularly emergency vehicles.</p> <p>I understand the focus of your petition is to deter non-residents from being able to park at Hillrise and for the area to be designated as residents parking only. This petition has been signed by the residents of Malvern Court who already have parking available to them. I appreciate there is a strain on parking, as these residents have more vehicles than parking spaces available, however even if a residents permit scheme was implemented, residents of Malvern Court would not be allowed to have a permit. If there is a parking issue for residents of this development then it is up to them to contact their management company for assistance with this matter.</p> <p>I apologise that we are unable to assist you on this occasion.</p>
<p>18-02 - Kestrel Path and Vaughan Way Parking</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>2nd Mar 2018 I am writing in response to your petition regarding the request for additional parking bays on Kestrel Path.</p> <p>Unfortunately we do not have the budget for requests such as these; this would need to be discussed with your local ward councillors and if they are in favour of this, they would be able to fund this from their own budget. Please see below for details of your local ward councillors;</p> <p>Britwell and Northborough ward:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Councillor Robert Anderson – 01753 531 649 2. Councillor Martin Carter - 07856 723 037 3. Councillor Pavitar Mann - 07832 345 887 <p>I apologise that we have not been able to assist you on this occasion.</p>

ePetition Title	Signatures	Date Responded / Response
Double yellow lines at the rear of 179 to 255 Humber Way	14	<p>3rd May 2017</p> <p>I am writing to formally acknowledge receipt of your above ePetition which closed on 1st May, 2017.</p> <p>Slough Borough Council is pleased to advise that we have placed your request on our waiting list for consideration, which closes at the end of this year.</p> <p>If this scheme can be considered, letters will be sent to affected residents when the scheme has been designed with information about the proposal, and how to make representations before any scheme is implemented. A decision will then be made on how best to proceed based on any feedback.</p>
Change Tuns Lane to Avenue Of Remembrance	3	<p>6th Jun 2017</p> <p>With reference to your Online petition request – Change Tuns Lane to Avenue of Remembrance</p> <p>The Council is not able to accept this petition as it is has fallen below the minimum threshold of 10 signatories.</p>
Bus Facilities for Children from Cippenham to Langley covering 3 to 4 Grammar Schools	104	28 th Nov 2017- response outstanding
Windsor Link Railway	13	<p>15th Mar 2018</p> <p>The council acknowledges that the Windsor Link Railway has aspirations to connect Slough with Waterloo via South Western Railway and also for the route to make a connection to Heathrow via Windsor Riverside station.</p> <p>In terms of linking Slough to South London this will be possible via Crossrail and a tube connection i.e. the northern or jubilee lines. This service will be operational by December 2019 offering Slough residents a quicker and more reliable journey time without the need for a heavy rail interchange.</p> <p>The council has made a commitment to support the Western Rail Link to Heathrow (WRLtH) and continues to promote this project to support growth, modal shift and easier access to those who live west of London. The council has also now received support from its MP Tan Dhesi to co-chair the steering group to raise the profile of this worthwhile rail project. It is clear that the WRLtH project has not yet secured full funding however, with the design in an advanced position and the DCO process likely to be next year there are clear indications that this scheme will be delivered.</p> <p>The council at this critical stage cannot be seen to move from its position of support for WRLtH and so will not be supporting the Windsor Link Railway scheme.</p>

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MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE RECORD 2017/18
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

COUNCILLOR	13/06/17	13/07/17	14/09/17	30/10/17 (Extraordinary)	16/11/17	11/01/18	01/02/18	15/03/18	12/04/18
Chahal	P	P	P	P	P*	P	Ap	Ab	
Chaudhry	P	P	Ap	P	Ap	P	P	Ap	
Chohan						P	Ab	P	
N. Holledge	P	P	P*	P	P	P*	Ap	P	
Parmar	P	P	P	P*	P	P	P	P	
Rana	P	P	P	P	P	P*	P	P*	
Sadiq	P	P	P	P	P				
Sarfraz	P	P	P*	Ap	P	Ab	P	P	
A. Sandhu	P	P	P	P	P	Ap	P	P	
R. Sandhu	P	Ap	Ap	Ap	P	P	P	P	

P = Present for whole meeting
 Ap = Apologies given

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

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