

Slough Borough Council

Annual Scrutiny
Report

2011/2012

Foreword by Chair

It gives me great pleasure to introduce for the third year running, the Annual Scrutiny Report. The Report highlights key pieces of work each of the Scrutiny Panels and the main Committee have completed over the past year, and a look ahead to what we see as the primary challenges that face us going forward.

The main Overview and Scrutiny Committee and all three Panels have had a busy year, and the full work programmes for the year are attached at the end of this report. I have asked each of the Chairs and Vice Chairs to highlight the key achievements of their Panels, as I have done for the main Committee, so that this report gives a good picture of big issues that Scrutiny has looked to provide effective challenge and support to during 2011/12.

Issues I would like to highlight, in particular, are: the work of the Health Scrutiny Panel around the proposals to relocate the provision of mental health in-patient services to Reading (an issue that is on going); the work of the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel monitoring the reforms of the Police Authority, a subject which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee questioned the Chief Constable on during this annual visit; and the successful extraordinary meeting of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel in February looking at the issue of Child Trafficking and Exploitation. Scrutiny plays a vital role in providing effective challenge, bringing transparency and examples of best practice into the services we provide to the public, and both of these issues demonstrate the value that the scrutiny process can bring.

The 2012/13 municipal year promises to be a challenging and rewarding year for Overview and Scrutiny with the continued economic challenges and proposals for changes in the health service just a couple of the issues we will need to grapple with. I look forward to working with all members to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny adds value to the work of the Cabinet and officers across all issues.

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

Councillor Mewa Mann

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

The Local Government Act 2000 introduced a new structure within Local Government decision-making and accountability, creating a separation between the Executive Member role and the non-Executive Member role. The former propose and implement policies and the latter review policies and scrutinise decisions.

The Overview and Scrutiny function was created to include:

- Holding decision-makers to account
- Challenging performance and help improve services
- Ensuring policies are working as intended and, where there are gaps, to help develop policy (through its own policy development work and making recommendations to decision-makers)
- Bringing a wider perspective, from citizens and stakeholders
- Examining broader issues affecting local communities

In order to carry out this role, Overview and Scrutiny can request written information, ask questions of decision-makers, make comments and formal recommendations to key decision-makers including the Cabinet and other statutory bodies such as NHS Trusts and the Police.

In this way Members are able to review the quality of local services, hold decision-makers to account and put forward ideas for developing and improving services.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny (www.cfps.org.uk) has produced a guide to effective public scrutiny, which gives 4 Principles of Effective Scrutiny:

- **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

In order to do all of this Overview and Scrutiny must:

- Be independent
- Be robust, rigorous and challenging
- Fully engage of 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

Therefore 'acid test' for reviewing the effectiveness of an Overview and Scrutiny function asks:

- 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?

This report is aimed at assessing the effectiveness of the work done by the Overview and Scrutiny function at Slough Borough Council during the 2011/12 municipal year, and looks forward to challenges that it will face in the coming year.

Structure of Overview and Scrutiny in Slough

The Overview and Scrutiny function for Slough Borough Council is made up of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 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 Overview and Scrutiny Committee focuses on the 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.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Membership:

- Councillor Mewa Mann (Chair)
- Councillor Mohammed Basharat (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Roger Davis
- Councillor Tony Haines
- Councillor Harjinder Minhas
- Councillor Sohail Munawar
- Councillor Patricia O'Connor
- Councillor Ted Plenty
- Councillor Dexter Smith

Remit

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the overarching scrutiny body at Slough Borough Council and is therefore responsible for the consideration of all scrutiny matters within the Council. It has appointed and oversees the work of the 3 Scrutiny Panels, to whom it has delegated specific Cabinet Portfolios to ensure a comprehensive review of all public services in Slough. The primary focus of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are the Cabinet Portfolios of Finance and Strategy, and Performance and Accountability.

Major Issues

Census 2011

During the latter part of the 2010/11 municipal year and into this municipal year the Committee closely monitored the preparations and operation of the Census 2011, which was managed through the Chief Executive's directorate at the Council, in conjunction with partners. The Committee noted the improved response rate that had been achieved in comparison with the previous Census in 2001, and also they looked at what lessons could be learned from the process for future projects of this nature. The Committee also challenged the ONS on their approach to the Census in Slough.

The Committee noted the importance of strong quality assurance in securing a good base figure, and the project was keen to build on work already undertaken to ensure that projections from that base were accurate and maximised our population projection. This element was seen as particularly crucial in an area such as Slough with such a varied community make-up, some of which such as the Roma community, were difficult to engage with. The Panel recognised the success of the progress.

The Committee is waiting for the final figures from the Census to be released by the Office of National Statistics (expected in July 2012) and will review the results at this time to consider whether further investigation is required.

Call-Ins

The Committee dealt with one call-in this year which was received in response to a paper to Cabinet in March 2011 regarding Integrated Youth Support Services. The call-in looked at the administrative costs of the provision since its transfer into the responsibility of Slough Borough Council and the perceived erosion of services in that time. The Committee took evidence from the Strategic Director of Education and Children's Services as to how the service was being delivered differently and with versatility, and therefore the perceived erosion of services was not substantiated.

The Committee followed up the call-in with a further report on wider issues around the Integrated Youth Support Services.

Staff Appraisals

In July 2011 the Committee raised concerns around the completion rate of staff appraisals, which was seen as key to ensuring staff were properly performance managed. This was something the Committee decided should be monitored closely over the year and we have been pleased to note a dramatic improvement in completion rates, from 37.2% in September 2011 to 58.2% in January 2012. Although good progress has been made, the Committee is keen to continue monitoring this.

Localism Act 2011

The Committee received an initial report on the proposals contained in the Localism Act 2011 in November 2011, and noted in particular that it gave new powers and duties to local authorities and new freedoms and rights to local people to run their lives and neighbourhoods in their own way. At the time of this briefing the proposals had not been enacted, so the Committee agreed to note the implications of the proposals for Slough, continue to monitor progress and then formally revisit it once the detail was available.

As we near the end of the municipal year, that detail is becoming clearer, and so we have commissioned a further report on officer proposals for putting in place the wide range of provisions contained in the final Act. We will review these, and decide where best the monitor of the various elements will sit within our Scrutiny function.

The Future

The next municipal year will be a challenging and busy time for us all. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue its regular monitoring of performance and financial management, as well as the development of the budget.

The Committee we will also play a key role in providing central co-ordination for all of the Scrutiny Panels as well as picking up cross-cutting issues such as:

- Localism Act 2011
- Meeting Accommodation Arrangements
- Engagement of the Community –we have attempted to do this with limited success this year through our Scrutiny Surgeries, so we will need to review the format of these and potentially look at alternative ways of engagement
- Co-optees – the engagement of co-optees on the different Scrutiny Panels this year has been mixed. We may decide that a review of these appointments is necessary to ensure that the Panels are receiving the level of effective support in their work which was anticipated from having co-optees on the Panels.
- Call-ins – as these arise, whether they are in direct response to a decision taken at Cabinet, or a broader request for Scrutiny to look at a particular subject of public interest.

Health Scrutiny Panel

Membership:

- Councillor Mohammed Sharif (Chair)*
- Councillor Julia Long (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Nimrit Chohan
- Councillor Roger Davis
- Councillor Jagjit Grewal**
- Councillor Sohail Munawar
- Councillor Robert Plimmer
- Councillor Mohammed Rasib
- Councillor Wayne Strutton

* Councillor Mohammed Sharif was elected as Chair of the Health Panel on 1 February 2012, following Councillor Pavitar Mann's appointment to the Cabinet.

** Councillor Jagjit Grewal was appointed to the Health Scrutiny Panel at Council on 31 January 2012 to fill the vacant Labour seat following Councillor Pavitar Mann's removal.

Remit

The Health Scrutiny Panel performs the statutory role of scrutinising the provision of local health services in the Local Authority area, as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and The Local Authority (Overview and Scrutiny Committees Health Scrutiny Functions) Regulations 2002.

Major Issues

Mental Health In-Patient Provision

The issue of the future of mental health in-patient services in East Berkshire has been a top priority for the Health Scrutiny Panel since Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (now NHS Berkshire) launched a public consultation on the issue in August 2010.

The Health Scrutiny Panel opened its annual work programme by considering the report back from the Task and Finish Group (T&F Group). We had formed the group to undertake further detailed scrutiny of the Trust's recommendation in February 2011, of Option 1 (all services to be located at Prospect Park in Reading) for final ratification by the NHS Board. The T&F Group looked to seek the views of local people and other relevant stakeholders (including GPs) to conclude whether the evidence used by the Board in reaching its decision was fair and accurate.

The outcomes of our deliberations were that the Panel did not accept the findings of the public consultation which the recommendation of Option 1 for approval by the NHS Board was based on, and it was agreed that in the event that the NHS Trust did decide to relocate mental health in-patient provision to Prospect Park Hospital, Reading, that consideration would be given to referring the decision to the Secretary of State for Health.

In addition, the Panel requested that Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust sought independent advice on the cost of a new purpose built facility and that the resulting detail be submitted to the Panel at the earliest opportunity, and if this determined that a new facility was not financially viable, that an improved and enhanced service in conjunction with Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospital be put forward at the preferred option.

Impact – In response to comments made by the Panel in June 2011, along with the fact that no clear consensus had emerged on the way forward and significant

concerns had been raised by a number of key stakeholders about some of the options, NHS Berkshire and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) agreed to undertake a further period of clinical and stakeholder engagement during the summer 2011 in order to inform the decision-making on the future of this service provision.

The Panel received the results of the extended engagement process at its meeting on the 8 December 2011. The Panel still stressed its concern that it could not express an informed opinion on the options without all the information and facts being presented to Members, in particular the financial viability of each option and a detailed proposal for the provision of transport to the facility. NHS Berkshire agreed to provide a detailed report outlining all the options available against a number of criteria, including impact on community services, financial options, impact on clinical outcomes and impact on accessibility at its next meeting. This information was provided in January 2012, with the NHS Cluster Board scheduled to take a decision on the options 3 weeks later. The Panel, therefore, submitted a letter to the Cluster Board asking for a deferment in the decision. The decision was taken before the Panel was able to respond to the detailed options report.

Impact – At the Panel meeting on the 1 February it was agreed that subject to research into internal processes and Department of Health requirements, the Panel would refer the decision to the Secretary of State for review, following additional research on the process both internal and with the Department of Health for doing this. This matter is still being dealt with at the time of writing.

However, the Panel is keen that whatever the final outcome of this process, the residents of Slough who need use of the facility are given the best possible services. Therefore we have continued to work with the NHS in taking forward the decision, alongside our referral to the Secretary of State. This can be seen in our consistently raised concerns around the issue of transport should option 1 (Prospect Park) be taken forward.

Impact – This was an issue of high importance and one that is still under development, which the Panel is closely involved with, with two members of the Panel being asked to participate in a T&F Group being run by NHS Berkshire to finalise the proposed arrangements for the transport provision.

National Health Service and Public Health Reform

An underlying theme of the Panel's discussions this year, and one that will continue throughout the next municipal year is the national reform of health services, which will see a new model of delivery for the NHS and the transfer of the Public Health function to the Council. Although this controversial legislation is still being debated in Parliament, preparations for implementation are still being put in place, and it is important that during this crucial development time the Scrutiny Panel are involved in the process, as a critical friend, on behalf of Slough.

Should the proposed legislation be agreed in Parliament, it will have major implications for the local health system and the relationship we, as the Local Authority, will have with that system. The major elements of the legislation which the Panel have looked at are:

- The abolition of the PCT (for us NHS Berkshire East) and the establishment of the Slough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to take on the majority of its responsibilities, which will be led by GPs who will commission services locally;
- The transfer of the Public Health provision into the Council; and

- The establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Board as a committee of the Council (we considered the terms of reference for the shadow arrangements at our meeting on the 1 February 2012).

In addition to these, the Panel is very interested in how the replacement organisation for LINKs, to be called Local HealthWatch, will be organised and this is something that we will be scrutinising over the coming year.

Shaping the Future

Sitting alongside the national NHS reforms is the most dominant issue that has emerged for the Health Scrutiny Panel this year, and one that will continue throughout the next municipal year as well: Shaping the Future.

Shaping the Future are NHS Berkshire's proposals for the future of primary healthcare provision in East Berkshire. The proposals are aimed at establishing a financial and clinically sustainable model of care, improving care pathways and outcomes for patients, making the most efficient use of the NHS estates in East Berkshire (which recognise the importance of local access) and ensuring that every available pound is spent on patient care.

Because of the scale of the proposals, the Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JEBHOS) has agreed to begin meeting informally so that the Local Authorities of East Berkshire are aware of each area's views, and where there is common ground, that those views are represented jointly for maximum effect. This development of strong partnership working on these proposals through the JEBHOS began in January 2012, and so has been seen as a highly positive step in formulating our responses to the proposals.

Slough's Health Scrutiny Panel will ensure that the needs of Slough are adequately represented in the discussions as they move forward, through the JEBHOS and also directly with the Shaping the Future programme.

With the constantly evolving landscape for health provision we will have to continually monitor and investigate the options, drawing conclusions and feeding into the process.

Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JEBHOS)

The JEBHOS has been relatively quiet this year, but is playing a central role in bringing together the Health Scrutiny representatives across East Berkshire to discuss and draw together thoughts on the proposals for Shaping the Future. This role will become more and more important as the Shaping the Future agenda is taken forward.

The Future

As our work over the latter half of the 2011/12 municipal year demonstrated, the national NHS reforms alongside the Shaping the Future proposals will form the backbone of our work programme for the coming year. However, in addition to these, there are a number of other issues that will occupy our work programme:

- Car Parking Review – a year after the JEBHOS Review into NHS car parking provision across East Berkshire, the Panel will be looking at the implementation of the recommendations that were made.
- Maternity Services – possible in-depth piece of work into the provision of maternity services in Slough. This is a subject which has achieved national attention with the well-publicised lack of midwives in England and the impact of this on the quality of services across the country. The Panel are considering an in-depth piece of work looking at the quality of provision in Slough, the numbers of midwives available in Slough and the mitigation that

is being put in place to ensure that we are able to recruit qualified staff despite strong competition from the London areas.

- Relationship Building – with the changes in the NHS altering the way we, as the Local Authority, will work with the local health system, we will need to spend a significant amount of time building our relationships with those newly established bodies such as the Clinical Commissioning Group and Health and Wellbeing Board.

Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

Membership:

- Councillor Harjinder Minhas (Chair)
- Councillor Anna Wright (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Duncan Buchanan
- Councillor Martin Carter
- Councillor Haqeeq Dar
- Councillor Sohail Munawar
- Councillor Ted Plenty
- Councillor Paul Sohal
- Councillor Wayne Strutton

Neighbourhoods and Community Services Non-Voting Co-opted Members:

- Darren Morris (Slough Customer Senate Representative)
- Sandra Malik (Slough Fed Representative)
- Leaseholder Forum Representative (Vacant)

Remit

The Neighbourhoods and Community Services (NCS) Scrutiny Panel was a newly formed Panel for the 2011/12 municipal year, combining the previous Community, Leisure & Environment and Neighbourhoods & Renewal Scrutiny Panels. Constitutionally the NCS Scrutiny Panel takes on the remit of scrutinising the Cabinet portfolios for: Neighbourhoods & Renewal; Community & Leisure; and Environment & Open Spaces.

As Chair of this Panel, one of the first issues that needed to be addressed was that the membership was completely new. Therefore, throughout the year, we worked hard to build a cohesive relationship amongst the Panel members and dedicated ourselves to driving the agenda forward.

Major Issues

Police Reforms

The Neighbourhood and Community Services Panel remit to scrutinise crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour has brought it to the forefront of looking at the reforms that will be taking place to the Thames Valley Police Authority in 2012. We have received a briefing on the main elements of the reforms, and this work will be taken through to the new municipal year.

Prostitution

In October 2011, the Panel received a report on prostitution in certain neighbourhoods in Slough. It raised a number of concerns as to what approach was being taken to tackling this issue, which often had anti-social behaviour (another area of concern to the Panel) attached to it. In particular, the Panel was keen that the issue be tackled and not displaced to other areas of the Borough. Taking evidence from Chief Inspector Reeves (Thames Valley Police), he confirmed that the characteristics of Slough, given its proximity to the airport, good transport links and cheaper housing all meant that Slough was a popular destination for those entering the country for this purpose. The Panel then received a further update on the situation in March 2012, and again stressed concerns of displacement rather than solving the problem. We were pleased to note that the numbers of street workers had decreased and that a number of positive collaborative approaches were being developed across the Thames Valley to tackle this problem. The Panel will continue to monitor the progress of these initiatives.

Community Regeneration

The Panel has kept a close eye on specific regeneration projects that the Council has undertaken over the last year. A very successful meeting was held at the new Chalvey Community Centre in January 2012, where the Panel was able to tour the facility and scrutinise how the new approach to creating a community hub had been received in Chalvey. The Panel was pleased to note the positive engagement of the local community. Following on from this, the Panel was able to bring its knowledge, and using the evidence it had garnered from the discussions around the Chalvey hub, to discussions on the proposals for a similar, but larger, hub project in Britwell. With the success of Chalvey, and the impressive proposals for Britwell the Panel is keen to see how the lessons learned from these two regeneration projects can be used in other parts of the Borough.

Olympics and Paralympics

The Panel have been keeping a close eye on the Council's preparations for the Olympics coming to the area in July/August 2012. This has been an extremely large logistical operation, and the Panel was keen to ensure that it was done to, as far as possible, limit the disruption to the local community, along with engaging the community in the celebratory aspects of the events.

Slough Customer Senate

The Scrutiny Panel has forged links with the Customer Senate, a panel of tenants and leaseholders established under the remit of the Tenant Services Authority to scrutinise the management of the council's housing stock. In December the Panel was pleased to receive the Senate's first review into the operation of caretaking and estate services. This review will form the basis of a service improvement plan which will be periodically scrutinised to ensure delivery against the original aims.

The Future

There are some major themes that will be form the bulk of the Panel's work programme for the 2012/13 municipal year:

Police Reforms – we will be looking at the arrangements for the creation of the Police and Crime Panel early in the new municipal year, to ensure that the strongest possible scrutiny of the new Police and Crime Commissioner is established. Alongside this, we will need work with the Safer Slough Partnership to look at how Slough's priorities are encompassed in the plans of the new Commissioner, and build relationships with those in the new structure that is put in place.

Olympics and Paralympics – reviewing the lessons learned from the Olympics and Paralympics.

Heart of Slough – there are a number of areas of this that the Panel should be looking to monitor, but it has been agreed that an in-depth review of the lessons learned from the development of the bus station in order to inform similar projects in the future will form part of the work programme early in the year.

Highways and Traffic – always major public issues in Slough and the Panel are looking to fully investigate and monitor throughout the year.

Community Centres – with the Panel already inputting into the process of developing the community hub in Britwell, and holding a meeting to review the work at the community hub in Chalvey, this is a subject at the very heart of the Panel and work that we will continue going forward.

Customer Senate – the Panel will continue to work with the Customer Senate and looks forward to receiving their review of the housing repairs service.

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

Membership:

- Councillor Patricia O'Connor (Chair)
- Councillor Frank Abe (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Haqeeq Dar
- Councillor Roger Davis
- Councillor Harjinder Minhas
- Councillor Sohail Munawar*
- Councillor Mohammed Sharif
- Councillor Dexter Smith
- Councillor Sean Wright

Education Voting Co-opted Members:

- Northampton Diocese Representative (Vacant)**
- Oxford Diocese Representative (Vacant)
- Parent Governor Representative (Vacant)

Education Non-Voting Co-opted Members:

- Charlie McGeachie (Head Teacher Representative)
- Primary Teacher Representative (Vacant)
- Secondary Teacher Representative (Vacant)

* Councillor Sohail Munawar was appointed to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel at Council on 31 January 2012 to fill the vacant Labour seat following Councillor Pavitar Mann's appointment to the Cabinet.

**Kieran McKeown stepped down from the Panel in January 2012.

Remit

The Education and Children's Services (ECS) Scrutiny Panel has the remit for scrutinising the Cabinet portfolios for: Education and Children; and Opportunities and Skills.

Major Issues

The issues covered by the Panel are those that have been raised as priorities for the Council; within the Children and Young People's Plan; and matters that have arisen during the year of interest to the Panel.

These include the provision of school places at primary and secondary level; educational achievement; adult learning; provision for children with special educational needs; safeguarding; children and young people's health; services for young people; youth offending; early intervention services and child poverty.

One major feature of the 2011-12 municipal year has been the Safeguarding Improvement Plan. At our inaugural meeting of the year we received a report on the outcome of the April 2011 Ofsted announced inspection which had judged Slough Borough Council's Children's Social Care Services as 'inadequate' for safeguarding and 'adequate' for Looked After Children. We were asked to endorse the proposed Improvement Plan for rectifying the areas of concern. As a Panel we noted the positive practice highlighted in the Inspection and the key areas of improvement that were now being addressed. The first stage of this was an Immediate Action Plan, followed by the Improvement Plan based on the Ministerial Notice which arrived in October 2011. Panel Members have received copies of the Improvement Plan, and have continued to monitor progress against the Plan at each meeting throughout the year, recognising the link between this work and other areas of concern such as

domestic violence. The Panel was pleased to note the signs of improvement that were evident in the update we received at our meeting in January 2012.

Child Trafficking and Exploitation

The Panel held an extraordinary meeting on the 20 February 2012, to look in depth at the issue of child trafficking and exploitation. The aim was to understand the scope of the problem in the Slough area, and be informed about the actions that Slough LSCB and the member organisations were taking to prevent child trafficking and exploitation, understand the extent, and look at further work that needs to be carried out to help victims of child trafficking and exploitation.

This was a well attended meeting with a number of non-Panel members speaking under Rule 30, and provided a good opportunity for all those with concerns to have them heard. The Panel was pleased to note the good work that was being done to collect evidence on the scope of the problem in Slough and ongoing work to make sure that all agencies were carrying out their responsibilities to identify victims and offer them relevant services.

However, we recognise the seriousness and level of concern around this issue and have asked for regular six-monthly reports from the Chair of the SLSCB so that members can be certain that the SLSCB's work is effectively monitoring and scrutinising child trafficking and exploitation.

School Places

The issue of the number of school places in Slough has been raised through the ECS and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Members have consistently expressed concern at the need to increase the level of places available to meet a constantly growing population of primary school children in the borough and the projected need for secondary places in the future. We recognised that the Council was confident in increasing the provision of school places to meet its statutory requirements but we felt, with the rising birth rates and families relocating to the area, that this would continue to prove challenging. Therefore continued scrutiny of how the Council proposed to meet its statutory requirements was required and this is ongoing.

The Future

There are some major themes that will be form the bulk of the Panel's work programme for the 2012/13 municipal year:

Safeguarding Improvement Plan – this issue underpins all of the work that the Panel has done over the past year, and will continue to do so going forward. The Improvement Plan is one of the Council's GOLD projects and is monitored through the Improvement Board, CMT and Overview and Scrutiny.

Priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan - the CYPP 2011-14 was signed off by the Scrutiny Panel in January 2012 after it had been changed to include the comments from the Minister's letters in October and November 2011. The priorities in the CYPP will form items for discussion over the next year.

Future of Education (Impact of Academies) – We have received a number of reports referring to the impact of schools moving to Academy status, and want to understand how the changes affect school places, school attainment and the role of the Local Authority in children and young people's education.

Skills and Opportunities Development – The Panel's work programme often has a heavy emphasis on Children. We may wish to place more emphasis on the opportunities and skills element of the remit over the next municipal year, with the Council having been involved in a number of programmes in this area such as Aspire.

WORK PROGRAMMES

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

Tuesday 7 June 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Outturn 2010-11 Performance and finance Report
- Census 2011 – Update
- Future Provision of Transactional Services for Slough Borough Council – Progress Update Report

Thursday 9 June 2011

Joint Meeting with Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Items

- Call-in – Questions following the report on IYSS presented to Cabinet on 14 March 2011

Tuesday 12 July 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Performance and Project Reporting for 2010/11 – end of year out-turns
- Revenue Budget Monitoring to 31 May 2011 (Periods One and Two)
- Climate Change Strategy
- Provision of Mental Health In-Patient Beds In East Berkshire – Report from Health Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 22 June 2011

Tuesday 13 September 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Finance and Project Report for Monitoring Report to 31 July 2011
- Housing Revenue Account Subsidy System
- Heart of Slough Scheme – Update
- Arrangements for Temporary Workers
- Census 2011 – Verbal Update

Tuesday 11 October 2011**Scrutiny Items**

- Highway Changes in Chalvey
- Medium Term Financial Planning/Budget Strategy 2012/13 to 2015/16
- Project Performance and Financial Reporting for 2010/11
- Sustainable Community Strategy – Refresh
- Accommodation Strategy Update
- Procurement of Transactional Services for Slough Borough Council
- Housing Benefit Reforms and the Impact on Slough

Tuesday 15 November 2011**Scrutiny Items**

- Project Performance and Financial Reporting for 2010/11
- Heart of Slough
- Localism Bill

For Information

- Equalities Act 2010

Tuesday 6 December 2011**Scrutiny Items**

- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Human Resources – Employment of Agency Staff

For Information

- Plans to refurbish and refit the CCTV and Careline Control Room
- Indices of Deprivation in Slough

Tuesday 17 January 2012

Scrutiny Items

- Project, Performance and Financial Report 2011/12
- Effect of the Economic Downturn on Slough
- Government Proposals on the Council House Right to Buy Scheme and its effect on Slough

For Information

- Local Strategic Partnership and Partnership Governance
- Highways Changes in Chalvey

Monday 13 February 2012 (meeting postponed from Thursday 2 February 2012)

Scrutiny Items

- Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2012/2013 to 2015/2016
- Project, Performance and Financial Reporting for 2011/12
- Income Collection and Debt Recovery Policy/Write Off of Irrecoverable Debt

For Information

- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- National Health Service and Public Health Reforms
- Asset Disposals 2011

Tuesday 6 March 2012

Scrutiny Items

- Sara Thornton, Chief Constable Thames Valley Police – Annual Report
- Project, Performance and Financial Report for 2011/12
- Corporate Procurement Strategy 2012-2015
- Recommendation of Health Scrutiny Panel – Appointment of Co-opted Member

Tuesday 10 April 2012

Scrutiny Items

- Annual Scrutiny Report 2011/12
- Project, Performance and Financial Report for 2011/12
- Localism Act

For Information

- Post-Implementation Review of Art @ the Centre Scheme

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL
WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

Wednesday 22 June 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Outcome of the Health Scrutiny Panel Task and Finish Group – Transfer of Mental Health In-Patient Provision to Prospect Park Hospital
- Slough Reablement and Enhanced Intermediate Care Implementation Programme

Tuesday 20 September 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Employment Support for People with Disabilities
- Re-commissioning of Mental Health Day Services
- Future of Mental Health In-Patient Services – Progress Update on Additional Engagement and Consultation Activity
- Future of East Berkshire Mental Health In-Patient Services – Transport Solutions to Support Relatives and Carers proposed by Berkshire Healthcare Trust
- Developing Safe and Sustainable Acute Services in NHS South Central Region: Stroke, Major Trauma and Vascular Surgery
- National 'Any Quality Provider' Initiative – Implications for NHS Berkshire
- Joint East Berkshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 13 October 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Employment Support for People with Disabilities

Tuesday 18 October 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Tuberculosis (update)
- Male Cancers/Cervical Cancer Screening

Thursday 8 December 2011**Scrutiny Items**

- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Progress Report
- Future of Mental Health In-Patient Services – Progress Update on Additional Engagement and Consultation Activity
- Report of the Slough Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership Board (April 2010 to October 2010)

Wednesday 1 February 2012**Scrutiny Items**

- National Health Service and Public Health Reform
- Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust: Operational Finance Update
- Stroke Services in Slough
- East Berkshire Mental Health In-Patient Services

Tuesday 20 March 2012**Scrutiny Items**

- Shaping the Future
- Child Health in Slough
- Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust – Quality Account 2010/11
- Public Local Account – Social Care (dealt with virtually)

Thursday 5 April 2012**Extraordinary Meeting – Mental Health In-Patient Services Provision****Scrutiny Items**

- Estates Rationale behind Decision
- Progress in Preparing Implementation of Conditions
- Referral of Decision to Secretary of State

NEIGHBOURHOODS & COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

Thursday 16 June 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Ten Pin and Tennis Progress
- Empty Homes: Housing Solutions – A Strategy for Slough
- A proposal to Implement Additional Homes in Multiple Occupation for Chalvey Ward
- Food Standards Agency – Imported Food Control Unit

Thursday 15 September 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour in Slough
- Neighbourhood Working
- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill

For Information

- Libraries Update

Monday 24 October

Scrutiny Items

- Prostitution – Current Challenges and Future Actions
- Community Centres Future Provision
- Winter Preparations
- Housing Benefit – Follow Up on Audit Commission Inspection 2010

For Information

Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report

Monday 5 December 2011**Scrutiny Items**

- Synchronisation of Traffic Signals on the A4 (between Three Tuns Crossroads and Huntercombe Roundabout)
- Regulation of Distribution of Free Printed Matter
- Housing Futures – Provision of Housing Services Update
- Housing Service Customer Senate – Review of Estate Services

Monday 16 January 2012**Scrutiny Items**

- Libraries Progress Report
- Tour of Chalvey Community Centre
- Chalvey Community Centre
- Britwell Community Centre

Thursday 1 March 2012**Scrutiny Items**

- Olympics and Paralympics Update
- Highways Engineering Programme of Works for 2012/13
- Public Protection Services Enforcement Policy
- Prostitution – Update and Future Actions

For Information

- Ten Pin and Salt Hill Park Tennis Update

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL
WORK PROGRAMME 2011/2012

Thursday 9 June 2011

Joint Meeting with Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Scrutiny Items

- Call-in – Questions following the report on IYSS presented to Cabinet on 14 March 2011

Main Meeting

Scrutiny Items

- Ofsted Report on Announced Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children
- School Improvement and Raising Standards

Monday 5 September 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children
- Slough Youth Offending Team Progress Report
- Academies
- Integrated Youth Support Services

For Information

- Condition of School Estate

Wednesday 12 October 2011

Scrutiny Items

- Reducing Family Poverty in Slough
- Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children – Progress Report
- Children with Special Education Needs
- Attainment of Pupils from Ethnic Minorities
- Statement of Purpose for Breakaway, Respite Care Unit

Thursday 24 November 2011**Scrutiny Items**

- Munro Report on Safeguarding
- Ofsted Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children
- Ofsted Annual Children's Services Assessment 2010
- School Places
- Performance Update

Tuesday 24 January 2012**Scrutiny Items**

- Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14
- Safeguarding Improvement Plan
- Increase in Children with Protection Plans and Number of Children who are Looked After
- Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children and Young People
- Adult Learning Service
- Teenage Health
- Elective Home Education

Monday 20 February 2012**Extraordinary Meeting****Scrutiny Items**

- Child Trafficking and Exploitation

Thursday 22 March 2012**Scrutiny Items**

- Impact of Academies on Slough
- Children's Social Care Complaints
- Special Educational Needs and the Transition between Childhood and Adulthood
- Post-16 Provision and Choices in Slough
- Youth Offending Team – Performance Update