

MEETING:	Council
MEETING DATE:	6 March 2015
TITLE OF REPORT:	Annual report of the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2014/15
REPORT BY:	General Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To inform Council of the work undertaken by the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the municipal year 2014/15.

Recommendation

THAT the report be noted.

Alternative Options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the report is for information only.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 2 To comply with the requirement in the council's constitution that Council will receive annual reports from committees.
- 3 The scrutiny function is a legal requirement by virtue of Schedule 2 of the Localism Act 2011.

Key Considerations

- 4 Since the Annual Meeting of Council, the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee has met in public on six occasions, including two call-in meetings to consider executive decisions, and a further meeting is scheduled for 10 March 2015.

5 A summary of the Committee's work is provided below.

Task and Finish Group Reviews

The following in-depth scrutiny reviews have been completed or are in progress:

- Household Recycling Centres (completed)
- Balfour Beatty Living Places (report to be considered on 10 March 2015)
- Development Management (Planning) (report in preparation)
- Community Infrastructure Levy, phase 3 (in progress)

Committee Reports

The committee has considered the following items:

- Public Realm Services - Balfour Beatty Living Places Update
- Executive Response to the Task and Finish Group Report on Household Recycling Centres
- Proposed Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2017/18
- Proposed Revisions to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2015/16
- Budget 2015/2016 and Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Review of Lease Restructuring with Hereford United (1939) Ltd

The committee is due to consider the following items on 10 March 2015:

- Education Strategy - School Estates
- Educational Performance Summer 2014
- Task and Finish Group Report on Balfour Beatty Living Places

Call-ins

There were two call-ins during the year concerning:

- Call-in of the Cabinet Decision on the South Wye Transport Package
- Call-in of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership Joint Executive Committee Decision on Marches Enterprise Zone

Briefing Notes

In addition to the committee reports above, briefing notes have been provided to committee members on the following topics during the year:

- Borrowing Levels
- Education Strategy for Herefordshire
- Early Years, Schools, Free Schools, Academies, Colleges and the Relationship with Herefordshire Council Update
- Update on Home to School Transport
- Community Safety, Transforming Rehabilitation Update

- Information, Advice and Signposting Services
- Arm's Length Companies
- Staff Turnover and Retention of Organisational Knowledge

It is expected that further briefing notes will be provided to committee members before the end of March 2015 in respect of:

- Update on the Executive Response to the Task and Finish Group Report on Household Recycling Centres
- Pupil Premium and Hidden / Actual Costs of Education
- Digital Strategy

6 The Chairman of the General Overview and Scrutiny Committee would like to thank committee members, co-opted members and the internal and external contributors that have participated in the work of the committee. The Chairman would also like to thank the members of the public that have attended committee meetings during the year and for the many interesting questions that have been submitted.

Background Papers

- None identified.