

MEETING	COUNCIL
DATE:	8 MARCH 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL REPORT OF GENERAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
REPORT BY:	GENERAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP:	<p>A SELDON (CHAIRMAN), EPJ HARVEY (VICE-CHAIR), EMK CHAVE, BA DURKIN, DW GREENOW, JW HOPE MBE, RC HUNT, TM JAMES, BRIG P JONES CBE, RL MAYO, R PREECE, GR SWINFORD, DB WILCOX</p> <p>STATUTORY CO-OPTees – MR P BURBIDGE (ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH), MISS E LOWENSTEIN (SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT GOVERNOR), MR T PLUMER (PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT GOVERNOR), MR P SELL (CHURCH OF ENGLAND)</p>

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not an executive decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

To inform Council of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny Committee from October 2012 to February 2013.

5. Recommendation

THAT:

- (a) the report be noted.**

6. Key Points Summary

- The scrutiny function is a legal requirement by virtue of Schedule 2 of the Localism Act 2012.
- Prior to October 2012 General Scrutiny was dealt with by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- On 28 September 2012 Council approved a new scrutiny structure that decommissioned the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and replaced this with two separate Committees, namely: Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee and General Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was decommissioned on 15 October 2012. The new General Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been in effect since this date.

7. Alternative Options

- 7.1 There are no Alternative Options as the report is for information purposes only.

8. Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 To comply with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

9. Introduction and Background

- 9.1 On 15 October 2012 the previous Overview and Scrutiny Committee was decommissioned. The new General Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established and Councillor A Seldon was elected as Chairman and Councillor EPJ Harvey was elected as Vice-Chairman.
- 9.2 The General Overview and Scrutiny Committee operates on a monthly cycle and has held four meetings since 16 November 2012 to 7 February 2013.
- 9.3 An extraordinary meeting was called on 1 February 2013 to consider the budget and in particular, the adult social care budget. This Committee was held in conjunction with the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee as the extra money needed from the budget for adult social care would have a direct effect on other parts of the Council.
- 9.4 General Overview and Scrutiny have been required to look at high profile matters since November 2012. The Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Budget for 2013/14 were very complex and controversial areas given the overspend and projected increase in adult social care for the County.
- 9.5 The Call-In of the variation to the Retail Quarter (Old Livestock Market) attracted a lot of interest from Members of the Public and the press.
- 9.6 The Local Development Plan, Local Transport Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy are also entering into the important stage of consultation. A Community Infrastructure Levy Task and Finish Group was set up to enable pre scrutiny of this new and technical element of the Local Development Plan.

9.7 A summary of the work undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is set below.

Summary of Work Undertaken By Overview and Scrutiny

Scrutiny Reviews

9.8 The following in-depth scrutiny reviews are in progress

- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Housing Allocations Policy

Pre-Decision Scrutiny

9.9 The following matters were subject to pre-decision scrutiny:

- Consultation on the Local Development Framework, Local Transport Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy
- Budget and Emerging Options
- Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Council Budget 2013-2014

Call In

9.10 There was one call in of the Cabinet decision concerning the variation to the Retail Quarter (Old Livestock Market).

Updates

9.11 The Committee has heard updates on:

- Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Fees and Charging
- Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Council Procurement Policy and Local Business and Local Employment
- Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Tourist and Temporary Events Signage
- Hereford Futures Governance
- Overview and Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on Planning Systems Review

Other Matters

9.12 The Chairman in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Housing and Planning arranged a seminar on planning enforcement.

9.13 The Chairman conducted intelligence gathering from Members on the Amey Contract and submitted the findings to the Cabinet Member.

Public Participation

9.14 Public speaking is considered a key part of scrutiny. A number of questions were put to the scrutiny committee regarding the Call-in of the Cabinet decision concerning the variation to the Retail Quarter (Old Livestock Market) Development Agreement. One further question was received regarding the Community Infrastructure Levy.

10. Background Papers

10.1 None identified.