

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 6 FEBRUARY 2018

REPORT BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- This report details the comments and recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee since the last meeting of the Executive.

<u>RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE:</u>	
(A)	That the Executive note the contents of the report.

1.0 Background

1.1 On 12 December 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the following items:

- Update from Executive Member for Environment and Public Space;
- Communications Update
- Night-time Economy and Emergency Services: Impact of alcohol use on policing
- Work Programme 2017/18

2.0 **Update from the Executive Member for Environment and Public Space**

2.1 The Executive Member for Environment and Public Space was invited to provide a presentation and update on his portfolio.

2.2 Prior to the meeting taking place, the Executive Member was provided with some key questions from Scrutiny Members on areas they would like to be included in the update. The Committee discussed the presentation in detail and asked questions of the Executive Member and officers, to which comprehensive responses were provided.

2.3 An update was provided regarding the joint waste and recycling contract with North Herts District Council and discussions were held on appropriate disabled toilet provision; management of Bishop's Stortford Music Festival; how the Council worked with premises owners to improve food hygiene ratings; taxi licensing and reasons for taxi drivers' licenses being revoked; and the success of Op Stomp. In discussion, Members highlighted the need to share information about applications for extensions to premises licences to the wider public and suggested that requests for premises licenses be sent to the relevant Town Clerk. Officers agreed to investigate the Committee Chairman's suggestion that provision be made on the Council's website where complaints could be lodged in relation to an event licence.

2.4 The Committee noted the contents of the presentation.

3.0 **Communications Update**

3.1 The Committee considered a report outlining progress on the Council's approach to Communications.

3.2 The new Link magazine format was considered and there was a thorough discussion of the potential advantages and disadvantages of ceasing to produce a paper based magazine.

- 3.3 Members suggested that officers review the ease of accessibility of licensing applications on the Council's website.
- 3.4 The Committee noted the Council's approach to communications.
- 3.5 The Committee requested regular reviews be provided to Members in terms of whether the objectives as detailed for 2017/18 had been met.
- 3.6 The Committee requested that officers undertake market research to establish the format in which residents preferred to receive information from the Council.

4.0 Night-time Economy (NTE) and Emergency Services: Impact of alcohol use on policing

- 4.1 The Committee considered a report providing an update on the key points of recent consideration by the Licensing Committee of the impact of alcohol use on policing in the district's town centres.
- 4.2 There was discussion of the importance of the NTE as part of the local economy and the potential for it to be a nuisance to residents. Members considered the Scannet system and its costs and benefits were discussed and the value of the Taxi Marshalling scheme and Street Pastors highlighted.
- 4.3 The Committee resolved that the views of the Police on the impact of alcohol on their activities be noted and that any views on how the Council and Police can work together to mitigate the impact be forwarded to the Head of Housing and Health.
- 4.4 The Committee requested that its initial views on the upcoming review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy regarding applications from licensed premises be provided to

the Head of Housing and Health for consideration.

- 4.5 The Committee agreed that the Head of Housing and Health be requested to report back on the impact of alcohol on health services following the presentation to Licensing Committee by Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health team.

5.0 Work Programme

- 5.1 The Committee received a report which provided an update on the current status of the Committee's Work Programme for 2017-2018, including Task and Finish Groups.
- 5.2 The Committee noted that a report updating Members on Planning Enforcement was planned for inclusion at the meeting on 20 February 2018 and that a further report on the Night Time Economy and its impact on the health Service would be added to the agenda for its meeting on 17 April 2018.
- 5.3 The Committee approved the draft Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Background Papers

None

Contact Members: Councillor M Allen, Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Committee
mike.allen@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Alison Stuart- Head of Legal and Democratic Services
alison.stuart@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Authors: Fiona Corcoran – Scrutiny Officer
fiona.corcoran@eastherts.gov.uk