

East Herts Council Report

Executive

Date of Meeting: 24 November 2020

Report by: Councillor John Wyllie, Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report title: Report of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Ward(s) affected: all

Summary

This report is a summary of matters considered at a recent meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as reported by the Chairman of the Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE:

(a) To note the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairman.

1.0 Proposal(s)

- 1.1 The Executive agenda includes a standing item for consideration of reports from the Overview and Scrutiny Chairman. Executive Members are invited to consider and note the comments submitted by the Chairman of the Committee.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The following is a summary prepared by the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

The Committee met virtually on 3 November 2020 and considered a number of items.

Presentation by the Leader and Chief Executive –

How the Council reacted to the Corona Virus. Members thanked the Leader and Officers for the detailed the response. Members raised a number of issues in relation to the approach taken going forward to homeless sleepers, the dissemination of information to the public by the Local Resilience Forum, Town Centre Schemes which had been implemented by HCC, support grant to businesses and occupancy levels at Launchpad in Bishop's Stortford and the need to promote Launchpad in Ware. Members also queried whether the business support grant had identified other businesses which had not been registered for business rates.

Revenues and Benefits Annual Report – Members thanked Officers for the report and a Member queried how overpayments arose and how this impacted on processing and the processes for recovering debt.

Update on Sustainability Action Plan – Members asked for further information on how the Carbon Assessment Tool was utilised and made a number of suggestions to the Council aim of carbon zero. Members also felt that the website should include more information in terms of tips and hints to reduce the carbon footprint.

East Herts Complaints 2019-20 – Members thanked the Officers for the report and the introduction of the new unreasonable behaviour policy which would be submitted to Council for approval.

Corporate Plan Update – Members thanked Officers and received the report. A Member raised the inclusion of issue of BISH 6 which had not yet been determined by DM Committee.

The Work Programme was also updated – Members the programme and their attention was drawn to a number of up and coming briefings in November and December.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 To enable the Executive to be informed directly by the Overview and Scrutiny Chairman of the Committee's work and its scrutiny of forthcoming policy.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 Not to receive the Committee's views: this option would not be conducive to the scrutiny process.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 That scrutiny is not taken into account in Executive decision-making.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 None in relation to this summary report, as specific reports which were considered by the Committee and are submitted to the Executive set out implications in relation to those items.

Community Safety

No

Data Protection

No

Equalities

No

Environmental Sustainability

No

Financial

No

Health and Safety

No

Human Resources

No

Human Rights

No

Legal

No

Specific Wards

No

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

7.1 None.

Contact Member

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