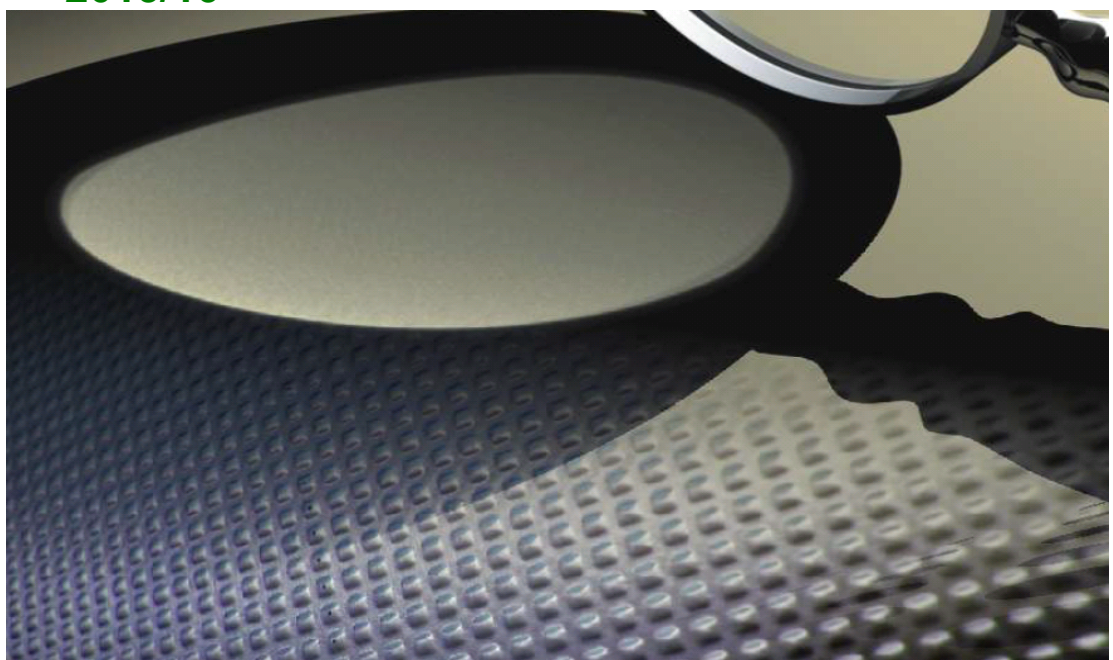




Overview & Scrutiny

Annual Report

2015/16



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Foreword



Each year, the Constitution Committee receives and considers the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report. Under Section 7.4.5 of the Constitution, the Scrutiny Committees are required to report to the Council on their workings, with recommendations for their future work programme and amended working methods if appropriate.

The attached report, which we approved at our meeting on the 5th October 2016 accurately reflects the work carried out by the six Overview & Scrutiny Committees and we are satisfied that these give assurance to us, as Members of the Constitution Committee that the Overview & Scrutiny function has fulfilled its constitutional aims during the last year.

We have noted that when the Annual Report was considered by Council last year, that it was suggested that an item on the use of the call in procedure be included. We are satisfied that this request has been acted upon and so pages 6 to 8 of the Annual Report give details of the call in procedure and how it has been exercised during 2015/16. We therefore commend the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015/16 to the Council.

Councillor Robin Guest

Chair on behalf of the Members of the Constitution Committee



In Flintshire, we believe that effective and robust Overview & Scrutiny is an integral part of good governance. The Cabinet is both held to account and supported by the six overview & Scrutiny committees which we have. It would be reasonable for me to say that we all, as Members and Officers have a vested interest in our Overview & Scrutiny arrangements working as well as it can do. The role of Overview & Scrutiny in commenting on reports and emerging policies before they are considered formally by the Cabinet is invaluable to us.

During the last year, we have seen the reviewed and refreshed Overview & Scrutiny committees in operation. Whilst the terms of reference which were developed through the working group had given us an idea of how the dynamics might work, it wasn't until those new committees met, and the Members worked together, and with their officers, that we could see that the right decisions had been made.

As Leader, I probably attend all of the committees from time to time, but it is with the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the new Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee that I have my closest working involvement. Corporate Resources has continued to make use of verbal reports where appropriate – usually to ensure that the information which is provided is as up to date as possible. I am often able to share the results of discussions which have taken place in Cardiff, with Welsh Government representatives. Organisational Change has adapted to working in different ways from the other committees, often having an earlier involvement in proposed changes.

Last year, I concluded my 'Cabinet perspective' feature in the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report by thanking everyone who is involved in Overview & Scrutiny here; whether they be they Committee Chairs and Members and the Cabinet Members and officers who attend as contributors at the meetings, as well as the support staff. This year, I reiterate those thanks; as an authority, we continue to place a lot of reliance on you all, in your respective roles to make Overview & Scrutiny and thus our entire governance structure work effectively.

Councillor Aaron Shotton,
Leader of the Council

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE – COLIN EVERETT



'Last year the Council opened itself up to the most intense scrutiny exercise yet. All in the interests of finding ways to balance the annual budget in a year where we had to find savings close to £20M – our biggest ever annual target.

In doing so we explored the efficiency and cost effectiveness of every service, questioned what we should continue to do as core services, tested out ideas for service change and transformation, tested the public appetite to recover costs through fees and charges, and continued our ambitious organisational reform programme to cut overhead costs and work more smartly . It was both a creative and a painful experience. By working together we were able to set an annual budget without compromising our values and principles and with all of the core local services remaining intact.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committees played a major part in agreeing a programme of reform and efficiency through a twin approach of challenge and support. Local people also played their part in contributing ideas during the *Our Moment* engagement campaign, and through standing up to be counted in supporting us when we said 'enough is enough' to continued national budget cuts of this scale. At the heart of all discussion was the desire to protect services and local community facilities which are critical to community life. Local communities played their part in stepping forward to work with us in new venture such as Community Asset Transfers and Alternative Delivery Models.

The years ahead will be challenging. Through strength of purpose we can continue to modernise the Council and find better and more efficient ways of doing things whilst maintaining our position as a well governed, high performing and progressive council.'

Colin Everett
Chief Executive

How a call in works

1. Background

During consideration of the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report for 2014/15 at County Council, it was suggested that the next Annual Report should include a section on the use of call in. Therefore, this section identifies how a call in works, together with details of the items called in during 2015/16 and the results of the call in meetings.

The arrangements for calling in a decision are to be found in paragraph 16 of the Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained within the Council's Constitution. The legal authority is derived from section 21 (3) of the Local Government Act 2000.

The ability to call in a Cabinet decision is a significant power for non-executive members. It is not something which should be considered unless there is no alternative: if the power is over-used, or used in such a way as to be thought of as frivolous, its significance or importance would be lost.

During the 2015/16 municipal year, we held six call in meetings, as follows:

Organisational Change - 8th June - Medium Term Plan for Libraries – proposal to develop a new hub library at Deeside Leisure Centre and re-locate Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry Libraries.

(Decision - That having considered the decision, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was satisfied with the explanation that it had received and therefore the decision could be implemented.)

Environment - 19th July – Hope Household Recycling Centre

(Decision - That having considered the decision, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was satisfied with the explanation that it had received and therefore the decision could be implemented.)

Education & Youth - 24th - August - School Modernisation – School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 - John Summers High School.

(Decision - That having considered the decision, the Committee was still concerned about it and referred it back to Cabinet for reconsideration.)

Environment - 13th - January - Hope Household Recycling Centre (HRC) Site

(Decision - That having considered the decision, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was satisfied with the explanation received and the decision could be implemented).

Education & Youth - 28th April 2016, School Modernisation- School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013- Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain

(Decision - That having considered the decision, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is still concerned about it and therefore refers the matter to Full Council).

Education & Youth - 28th April 2016, School Modernisation- School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013- Ysgol, Llanfynydd.

(**Decision** - That, having considered the decision, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is satisfied with the explanation which it has received, and it is in order for the decision to be implemented.)

2. Decisions of the Cabinet

Following a meeting of the Cabinet meets, the record of the decisions which it made is published within two days. Copies are available at County Hall, and are sent to all Members of the County Council.

The decision record bears the date on which it was published and specifies that the decision will come into force, and may then be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless it is called in within those five working days after the publication of the decision

3. Calling in a Decision

If the Chief Officer (Governance) receives a request from the Chair of an Overview & Scrutiny committee or at least four members of the Council, (for the avoidance of doubt such a request should be on a call in notice form, giving the reason for the call-in, and signed by all parties) a call in meeting is arranged.

Either the Member Engagement Manager or one of the Overview & Scrutiny Facilitators notifies the decision takers (the relevant Cabinet members and Chief Officers) of the call-in, and then arranges a meeting of the appropriate committee within seven working days of the decision to call-in

4. The Call-in Meeting

By their nature, call-in meetings tend to be held at short notice (i.e. within seven working days of the call-in decision) and generally the only item of business to be transacted would be to deal with the call-in. However, from time to time it is expedient to consider a call in at a meeting which has already been convened.

There is a suggested procedure for dealing with a call in. This is intended to make the meeting as simple and transparent as possible.

The Chair asks the advising officer (this will be the Member Engagement Manager or one of the Overview & Scrutiny Facilitators) to briefly outline the call-in procedure for Members of the Committee, explaining the time constraints within the Constitution.

The initiators of the call-in (those who have signed the call in form) are then invited to explain and clarify their reasons for calling in the decision. This can be by means of a spokesman, or by several Members contributing.

The decision makers (the relevant Cabinet Members and Chief /senior officers) then have the opportunity to respond to the issues raised by the initiators and provide further information if they believe that it will assist the committee's understanding of the decision. Once this had taken place, the Chair invites questions from Members, and the decision-makers and call-in initiators are invited to respond as appropriate. At the end of Members'

questions, the Chair will ask the initiators and the decision makers to sum up their respective cases.

The advising officer then explains the Committee's options for decision, as detailed in the Constitution. The decision should include one of the four options given below.

Option 1

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is satisfied with the explanation which it has received and so the decision can be implemented immediately.

Option 2

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is 'no longer concerned', having received the explanations, but is not minded to indicate that it is 'satisfied with the explanation'. The decision can be implemented immediately and the committee will resolve that 'the explanation be accepted but not endorsed by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee'.

Option 3

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is still concerned about the issues and refers it back to the Cabinet for reconsideration, giving the reasons why. The Cabinet must reconsider the decision at the earliest scheduled meeting, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

Option 4

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is still concerned about the issues and decides to refer the matter to full Council. If it is apparent that the Committee is minded to take this approach, the advising officer will remind the Committee that 'executive functions' are solely within the remit of the Cabinet. The Council are able to consider the issue, but not change the decision: it can only recommend to Cabinet that the decision be reconsidered. If referred to full Council, the meeting must be held within 10 working days unless there is a scheduled meeting of the full Council at which the matter may be considered within the expiry of a further 5 working days.

There has only been one occasion where a decision has been referred to Council. That was on 28th April 2016 when the decision related to a report *School Modernisation- School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013- Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain*. This decision was considered by the Council on 10th May, where it was referred back to the Cabinet. The Cabinet reaffirmed its original decision at its meeting on 17th May 2016.

5. Reporting Back

After a call in meeting, there is always a report back to the next Cabinet explaining the decision which the Overview & Scrutiny committee has made.

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Ron Hampson



Vice-Chair
Cllr George Hardcastle

A review of the Overview & Scrutiny Structure, resulted in the Terms of Reference of the Committee being expanded to include scrutiny responsibility for the regeneration functions of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Revenues and Benefits functions of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee continued to undertake pre-decision scrutiny and have been consulted on a number of initiatives, including, the Development of a Community Benefit Training Academy, the Strategic Housing and Regeneration Programme, the Framework for the Implementation of Local Lettings Policies, the Regional Economy and Growing the Local Economy.

Below is a summary of some of the topics the committee have considered over the last 12 months.

Work of Housing Associations

Grwp Cynefin Housing Association

In June, 2015, following an invitation from the Committee, Mr. Walis George and Mr. Rhys Davies of Grwp Cynefin Housing Association attending the meeting and gave a detailed presentation on their work in Flintshire. Key features of the presentation included, social rental homes, affordable homes, rural development and services for older people. Following the presentation, the Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions, which focused on the development of affordable housing and extra care facilities. The Committee welcomed the joint working between the Council and Grwp Cynefin Housing Association.

Update on Tenant Involvement

In July, 2015 the Committee considered a report on the approach to customer involvement within the Council Housing Service. Mr. John Ennis, Chair of the Flintshire Tenants and Residents Federation and Mr. Eddy Jones, Vice-Chair of the Flintshire Tenants and Residents Federation attended the meeting to provide the Committee with feedback from the tenant's perspective. Both Mr. Ennis and Mr. Jones spoke in support of the report and the support given to tenants by the Council. They also thanked the Committee for the opportunity to speak to Members on the work of the Tenants and Residents Federation. The Committee welcomed the work of the Council around customer involvement especially the social events held locally to engage with customers to promote the services and support available to both tenants and residents of the County and other visitors to the area.

Delivery of Outcomes of Recent Regeneration Programmes

In line with the revised Terms of Reference for the Committee, in November, 2015, we considered a report which provided an overview of the strategy for regeneration in Flintshire and a summary of the main regeneration programmes and projects delivered in Flintshire since 2010. The report was welcomed by Members of the Committee as it assisted them in gaining a better understanding of the regeneration programmes and projects and future direction of regeneration activity. The report was extremely positive, and the Committee will continue to monitor the development of future regeneration programmes through its forward work programme.

The Committee also requested further reports on the key areas of work being undertaken by the Council to maintain the economic success of Flintshire. This area of scrutiny was new to many Members of the Committee and therefore reports on growing the Local Economy presented throughout the year have been of benefit to the Committee in ensuring greater understating of the regeneration functions.

Introduction of Council Tax Premium for long term empty and second homes

In February, 2016, the Committee was consulted on proposals to introduce a local scheme to charge council tax premiums for long term empty properties and second homes. The report outlined the need to bring long term empty properties and second homes back into use to assist in addressing local housing need by increasing the supply of housing in the County. The Committee have, for some time, raised concerns around the need to increase the supply of housing and therefore welcomed the report and recommended its support to Cabinet.

Welfare Reform

During 2015/16 the Committee continued to receive regular update reports on the impact of Welfare Reform and the actions taken locally to provide help and support to affected residents in Flintshire. The Committee have been concerned around the impact of Welfare Reform and have welcomed the early intervention steps being taken and will continue to receive update reports

Councillor Ron Hampson

Chair of the Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Clive Carver



Vice-Chair
Cllr Peter Curtis

Expanded Terms of Reference

Following on from the Overview & Scrutiny structural review, the committee's remit has been expanded to incorporate partnership working and has also become the statutory crime & disorder scrutiny committee. At the first meeting of the committee within the new terms of reference, it was suggested that a reference to 'achieving value for money' and the Medium Term Financial strategy and plan should be specifically included within the committee's terms of reference. This was subsequently agreed by the Constitution Committee and confirmed at Council on 23rd July

Budget Monitoring

This has always been one of the salient features of the committee's work: at our monthly meetings, we consider the budget monitoring reports before they go to Cabinet the following week. When we make observations or recommendations they are formally reported to the Cabinet as part of the presentation of the report. We also refer items to one of the other Overview & Scrutiny committee if we feel that an item within their remit, such as a service overspending, requires further investigation.

Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan

Given the importance of this issue, it was reported on at each meeting during the autumn, with a written report in October and verbal updates at other meetings. The use of verbal reports on such topics means that the committee is provided with the most up to date information, which is invaluable.

Budget consultation

The approach to budget consultation has improved year on year, providing for greater member engagement and transparency in the process. In 2015/16, the Council held a series of informal all Member workshops starting in the summer, prior to more detailed presentations in November and December, specific briefings for political group leaders and overview & Scrutiny committee chairs and formal budget consultation meetings of Overview & Scrutiny committee in December and January.

Corporate Resources, as the lead Overview & Scrutiny committee for finance and resources issues held two all Member meetings, to ensure that those Members who are not currently on an overview & Scrutiny committee are able to have meaningful participation in the budget consultation process.

Crime & Disorder issues

Fulfilling our responsibilities as the Council's statutory crime & disorder committee under the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and the Crime & Disorder (Overview & Scrutiny) Regulations 2009, we held two meetings to specifically consider crime & disorder issues.

On an annual basis, the committee considers the Corporate Community Safety Plan Annual Update Report. At our September meeting, which was attended by the relevant Cabinet Members and council officers, in addition to the Chief Inspector responsible for the eastern (Flintshire & Wrexham) division of North Wales Police Mr Winston Roddick, the Police & Crime Commissioner, Mr Julian Sandham, his deputy and Mr Stephen Hughes, the Acting Chief Executive of the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office attended the December meeting to consult on the contents of the Crime & Policing Plan for 2016/17. Discussions which took place during this meeting led to a presentation on the 101 non-emergency number being given to the March meeting by Superintendent Alex Goss.

External scrutiny

Following a suggestion earlier in the year, Ms Alwen Williams BT regional director attended the April meeting of the committee. She gave a full presentation and responded to a wide range of member questions and concerns. These included progress with Wales Superfast and fibre coverage: Flintshire has a higher percentage of 30Mbps coverage than most of Wales, currently at 85.7%.

The North Wales Fire & Rescue Service and Authority, represented by the Deputy Chair, Cllr Peter Lewis, the Chief Fire Officer, Simon Smith and the Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Ruth Simmons gave a presentation on the consultation document 'Your services, Your Choices.'

The newly appointed regional manager for the North Wales Emergency Planning Service, Neil Culff gave a progress report on his service to the April meeting.

Use of consultants

This item was considered at the express request of the Chair following earlier concerns at an audit of the use of consultants. It had transpired that the issue had been clouded by the imprecise use of the term 'consultant', which had led to a significant degree of the wrong financial codes being used to process payments.

Following extensive discussion, the committee was able to resolve that it was assured by the explanations given on the purpose of consultants, the control of the total cost and how value for money was obtained from current commissioning and management practice. In addition, it was agreed that analysis of the expenditure on consultants be provided to the committee at a subsequent meeting and then on an annual basis.

Councillor Clive Carver

Chair of the Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Ian Roberts



Vice-Chair
Mr. David Hytch

A review of the Overview & Scrutiny Structure, resulted in the Terms of Reference of the Committee being amended. The Committee is now responsible solely for Education and Youth Service issues and issues such as Leisure and Library Services were now within the remit of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee. When considering the revised Terms of Reference, a number of concerns were raised around the removal of the Leisure and Library Services and the Committee recommended that it be fully informed of any future issues arising around dual use leisure centres where there would be an impact on schools.

The Committee continued to undertake pre-decision scrutiny and have been consulted on a number of initiatives, including, the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, School Service Level Agreement (Property Repair and Maintenance) and Early Entitlement – Changes to Delivery of Teacher Support to Approved Settings.

Below is a summary of the work undertaken by the Committee over the last 12 months, focusing on the School Modernisation Strategy:-

School Modernisation Strategy

School Modernisation – School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013 – John Summers High School

In July 2015 the Committee considered the responses from the statutory consultation period on the sustainability of John Summers High School, and options for future education provision, prior to Cabinet being requested to conclude on a formal proposal.

I invited the local Member, Councillor Wisinger, to address the Committee in order to outline the comments and concerns to the proposal which he had received from local residents around transport, transitional arrangements and pupil numbers. The Committee Members, during a detailed and lengthy debate, raised similar concerns on pupil transfer and transition arrangements, transport, redeployment of teaching staff and teaching and support expertise, and support for new uniform provision, which were all fed back to Cabinet.

Following consideration by Cabinet, their decision was subsequently called in and the Committee re-considered the proposals at a call-in meeting held in August, 2015. Many members of the public were in attendance to listen to the debate and Committee question the decision makers. Following a lengthy debate the Committee resolved that having

considered the decision, the Committee was still concerned about it and referred it back to Cabinet for reconsideration.

School Modernisation – School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013 – Ysgol Maes Edwin

In January 2016, the Committee considered the responses from the statutory consultation period for the proposal to close Ysgol Maes Edwin, Flint Mountain prior to Cabinet being requested to conclude on a formal proposal. During a lengthy debate, the Committee raised many concerns to the proposals, which centred around the opportunities given to the school to establish a federation and the impact of the proposals on parents and vulnerable learner groups.

We recommended that the Committee recommend to Cabinet that the process be suspended for two months to allow the opportunity for federation to be reviewed; and that the comments made by the Committee be presented to Cabinet to inform their consideration of the proposal.

School Modernisation – School Standards and Reorganisation Act 2013 – Ysgol Llanfynydd

In January 2016, the Committee considered the responses from the statutory consultation period for the proposal to close Ysgol Llanfynydd. During a lengthy debate, the Committee raised many concerns to the proposals, which centred on available school places at neighbouring schools, the impact of the proposals on vulnerable learner groups and the community and future transport arrangements.

The report prompted a debate on the school funding formula, with the Committee seeking a review of the current formula. The Committee will be receiving a report on a review of what budget goes to schools compared to what is actually spent and the work of the School Budget Forum around school budgets.

We recommended that the comments made by the Committee be presented to Cabinet to inform their consideration of the proposal.

Following consideration of the above items, I have thanked the Committee Members for the way they have conducted themselves during these difficult meetings. The Committee also agreed that it would continue to monitor the transition arrangements following the closure of the schools and also continue to receive regular updates on School Modernisation.

Councillor Ian Roberts

Chair of the Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Veronica Gay



Vice-Chair
Cllr David Evans

The Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee has had another busy year and has scrutinised a wide range of topics as listed in Appendix 1 of the report.

One of the highlights was the meeting of the committee held at Wepre Park in Connah's Quay. Prior to the start of the meeting, the Committee were given an enlightening presentation from Sarah Jeffery, the Heritage Lottery Fund Project Manager, on the history of Wepre Park and various projects undertaken. Wepre park has benefitted significantly from a Heritage Lottery fund grant was received to recreate the estate's formal garden and lawns as well as a kitchen garden and woodland garden. Volunteers have worked alongside officer to bring the plans to fruition and Members were extremely pleased with the results. The meeting facilities were also impressive within the visitor centre and provided an ideal venue for the Committee to meet outside of County Hall.

We received a very informative presentation from representatives of Natural Resources Wales. During an overview of partnership work, Members were informed how the Halkyn Mountain Ranger works closely with Natural Resources Wales. Another good example given was the Countryside team working on improvements to the Wales coastal path.

As a Committee we had raised concerns regarding invasive species including Himalayan Balsam. Natural Resources Wales advised that more funding would be required to support the Dee Invasive project to tackle the various invasive species.

We were also given an update on the second cycle of the Water Framework Directive and a range of improvements which had been carried out on the River Alyn, together with the various work streams covered by Environmental Regulations.

The Committee have been reviewing the impact of service changes following the implementation of new operating models, reviews of team resources in line with the Councils organisational design principles and modernised service delivery. The committee were actively involved in the budget planning process with Member workshops and drop-in sessions being held prior to consideration at our budget meeting in January. Some of the

areas that have been considered include: - the introduction of a revised car parking policy, street lighting policy, grass cutting policy and rationalisation of household recycling centres.

Another area that the Committee have requested updates on has been the County wide Speed Limit Review for the classified A & B road network. The committee were informed that a revised programme was needed to ensure the project was completed. Following the changes the committee have received verbal updates and have been reassured that appropriate progress has been achieved.

The Committee also continue to receive quarterly performance reports enabling the committee to fulfil their scrutiny role in relation to performance monitoring.

Councillor Veronica Gay
Chair of the Environment O & S Committee

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr David Roney



Vice-Chair
Cllr Brian Dunn

Terms of reference and ways of working

Following on from the extensive review of the Overview & Scrutiny committee structure which was undertaken during the latter part of 2014/15, five of the Overview & Scrutiny committees can be seen as direct successors of committees in the previous structure. They have an emphasis on the services delivered within portfolios and concentrate on ensuring the effectiveness of service delivery, monitoring performance and contributing to the development of specific policies.

The Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny committee is predicated on the need for fundamental changes to how the Authority carries out some of its functions. Within the Organisational Change portfolios there is a wide range of services: Engineering Services; Property & Design Consultancy; Valuation & Estates; Facilities services; Community Assets; Theatr Clwyd; Libraries, Culture and heritage including archives and museums and Leisure Services which includes leisure and sports centres, swimming pools and recreational facilities/activities

The commonality between them is an earlier recognition that their delivery in the 'traditional' form was not sustainable and that alternative delivery models would be necessary in order to safeguard those services for the future.

In many ways, the approach to scrutiny within Organisational Change, which is thematic rather than services specific is closer in ethos to that which was used in Flintshire during the initial period of Overview & Scrutiny in 2001- 2002. At that stage, there was a conscious decision to be different from the service committees which many of the Members and Officers had worked with for many years and were both familiar and comfortable with. However, the Local Government Act 2000 had taken decision making from the number of committees within each Council to concentrate those powers in the Executive or Cabinet. The emphasis for Overview & Scrutiny was intended to be far focussed on policy development.

From the onset, it was apparent that the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny would need to be involved in specific projects at a much earlier stage of their development, contributing to how changes would be made.

Libraries call in

Following the decision of the Cabinet on the creation of a hub library at Deeside Leisure Centre and the relocation of the libraries from Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry, the inaugural meeting of the committee was a call in meeting. A separate article within this Annual Report deals with how call in operates.

Theatr Clwyd

The theatre was considered at two meetings, the first of which was held at the theatre and included a behind the scenes tour of the facilities. The committee was introduced to the recently appointed Artistic Director, Tamara Harvey. In March, a progress report on the Business Plan was given and the committee was satisfied with the progress which had been made and that the modernisation and operational changes provide a sustainable model for the future.

Alternative Delivery Models (ADM)

It was recognised that an understanding of alternative delivery models and how they were being considered for Flintshire was much wider than the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny committee. Therefore, an all member workshop was offered and well attended in June.

At a meeting in April, the Chief Officers provided the committee with details of the national context for alternative delivery models, where it transpired, Flintshire is generally ahead of other local authorities in tackling this issue.

Working towards Alternative delivery models for Council Services

The development of alternative delivery Models and the use of Community Asset transfer are the salient features of the authority's approach to Organisational change and hence for the committee. During the year, the committee considered initial reports on the establishment of a range of different alternative delivery models such as mutual/co-operatives for retained commercial facilities, TECKAL Company (which would be wholly owned by the Council but have the ability to trade to a limited degree with other agencies).

Examples of service areas where this approach is being considered include Leisure, Libraries and Facility Management Services and aspects of Social Care.

Establishing 'Intelligent client' approaches for Valuation, Property and Estates

This envisages an increased commissioning role, working through strategic framework contacts where appropriate, rather than direct in house delivery within the Property and Capital Delivery services. The approach was supported at the November meeting.

Community Asset Transfer

At the March meeting, which was held in the hall at the Gwernymynydd Village Centre, a review of Community Asset transfer progress was given. To provide practical examples of the journey for successful applicants, representatives of Cambrian Aquatics (Connah's Quay Swimming Pool,) Caffi Isa (Mynydd Isa community Centre and Library) and the Gwernymynydd Village Centre attended the meeting and gave Members the benefit of their experience.

Councillor David Roney

Chair of the Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee

DRAFT

SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Chair
Cllr Carol Ellis



Vice-Chair
Cllr Andy Dunbobbin

The Committee continues to undertake effective scrutiny of health and social care and actively works to ensure the work programme is aligned to the corporate priorities and improvement objectives of the Council. Items scrutinised include: safeguarding (children and adults), the care sector and looked after children (jointly with Education and Youth Committee for educational attainment). The committee works well as a team and a fairly consistent membership over the last 4 years has helped ensure scrutiny is mature, meaningful and focused on outcomes. A full list of items considered at scrutiny is listed in appendix 1.

One of the Committees' key concerns during the last 12 months has been the sustainability of the Care Sector including residential/nursing homes and domiciliary care services. The Committee arranged a special meeting with relevant stakeholders including Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, representatives of independent care homes and domiciliary care providers who assist Flintshire residents with independent living.

With Independent Care homes offering 700 places and employing 1000 people in the care sector, the challenges faced by the sector due to the living wage which has not brought additional funding, include difficulties recruiting and retaining staff.

There was a commitment from all parties to work together to find local solutions to ensure a sustainable future for the care sector at a time when demands for services are expected to increase due to the ageing population.

Dementia Awareness

As a committee we had undertaken Dementia Friendly Training in April 2015 and became Dementia Friends. In order to continue our learning and further our understanding, we took part in the 'One Page Profiles' initiative in August 2015. This gave members of the committee the opportunity to understand the benefits of the 'One Page Profile' which can help family, friends or staff better understand of the person and how to support them. The process identifies what staff need to know about the person they are providing a service to and also if they were admitted into hospital.

We all found about a bit more about each other as the Social & Health Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee by answering three questions – What is important to me? What others like and admire about me? How to best support me?

The session demonstrated that to support someone well, you must first get to know them. The one page profile presents information in a simple way that can be quickly understood which the committee welcomed.

Members of the Committee also undertake Rota Visits which gives an opportunity to visit social care establishments and are focused on the wellbeing of service users.

Councillor Carol Ellis

Chair of the Social & Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

DRAFT

<p><i>Appendix 1</i> <i>Topics covered and activity information</i></p>

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Ron Hampson

Councillors: Amanda Bragg, Paul Cunningham, Peter Curtis, Ron Davies, Rosetta Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, Jim Falshaw, George Hardcastle, Ray Hughes, Hilary Isherwood, Brian Lloyd, Vicky Perfect, Mike Reece and Gareth Roberts

Wednesday, 20th May, 2015

Terms of Reference of the Committee

Welfare Reform update

Welsh Government Consultation on Council Tax Premiums for Second Homes and Long Term Empty

Delivery of the Housing Regeneration & Strategy Service

Monday, 1st June, 2015

Work of Grwp Cynefin Housing Association (Presentation)

Update on North East Wales Homes & Property Management allocation of sheltered accommodation

Wednesday, 8th July, 2015

Update on Tenant Involvement

Year End Chief Officer Performance Report

Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports

Community and Enterprise Service Re-Structure

Wednesday, 2nd September, 2015

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Self-Financing Arrears - Council Housing

The Development of a Community Benefit Training Academy

Quarter 1 – Improvement Plan Monitoring Report

Wednesday 7th October 2015

New Homes Business Plan 2015/20

Welfare Reform - Phase II

Council House Allocations Service

Wednesday 4th November 2015

Delivery And Outcomes Of Recent Regeneration Programmes

Growing The Local Economy

Framework for the Implementation of Local Lettings Policies

Alternative sites for the Extra Care Facility in Holywell

Wednesday 9th December 2015

Service Charges

Approval to Apply to Welsh Government for Suspension of The Right to Buy in Flintshire

Quarter 2 Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports

Thursday 17th December 2015

Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/2017 Consultation

Tuesday 12th January 2016

Strategic Housing And Regeneration Project (SHARP)
Flintshire Business Week 2015 (FBW15)

Tuesday 15th January 2016

Housing Revenue Account Draft Budget And Rent Increase

Wednesday 10th February 2016

Introduction of Council Tax Premium for long term empty and second homes
Council Tax & Business Rate Statutory Policies
Flintshire Social and Affordable Housing Delivery
Flintshire Supporting People Commissioning Plan

Wednesday 16th March 2016

Regional Economy
Quarter 3 Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports
Council Housing Service - Housing Management Restructure
Housing Programmes Restructure

Wednesday 13th April 2016

New Homes Business Plan 2016/21
Housing (Wales) Act 2014
Communities First

Monday 9th May 2016

SHARP - The Walks, Flint Council Housing Development
Welsh Housing Quality Standard Compliance Policy - Verification and Maintaining the Standard
Improvement Plan 2016/17

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Clive Carver

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Peter Curtis, Andy Dunbobbin, Robin Guest, Ron Hampson, Richard Jones, Brian Lloyd, Richard Lloyd, Vicky Perfect, David Roney, Ian Smith, Nigel Steele-Mortimer, Carolyn Thomas and Arnold Woolley.

Thursday, 14th May, 2015

Terms of Reference of the Committee

Thursday, 11th June, 2015

Improvement Plan 2015/16
Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring

Year End Chief Officer Performance Reports
Customer Services and Call Handling Update
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2014/15 (Month 12)

Monday, 13th July, 2015

Medium Term Financial Strategy
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16
Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring 2014/15 (outturn)
Management of the Workforce Change Programme
Single Status Closure Report
Restructure of ICT Service

Thursday, 10th September, 2015

Corporate Community Safety Plan Annual Update Report
LSB & Strategic Partnerships Performance - End of Year Report 2014/15
Medium Term Financial Strategy
Revenue Budget Monitoring (Month 3)
Quarter 1 – Improvement Plan Monitoring Report
Functions of the Elections Team and Individual Electoral Registration

Thursday 8th October 2015

Medium Term Financial Strategy
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 4) and Capital Programme 2015/16 (Month 4)
Workforce Information Q1

Thursday 12th November 2015

North Wales Fire & Rescue Authority - Consultation: 'Your Services, Your Choices'
Medium Term Financial Strategy
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 5)
Workforce Information Quarter 2

Thursday 10th December 2015

Police & Crime Commissioner: Consultation On The Crime & Policing Plan For 2016/17
Medium Term Financial Strategy
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 6) and Capital Programme Monitoring (Month 6)
Period 5 - Overspend In The Streetscene and Transportation Portfolio
Quarter 2 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report

Friday 18th December (morning)

Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 Consultation

Friday 18th December (afternoon – All Member meeting)

Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17
Draft Capital Strategy And Asset Management Plan 2015 - 2020
Capital Programme 2016/17 - 2019/20: Overview

Thursday 14th January 2016

Medium Term Financial Strategy
Provisional Local Government Settlement

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 7)

Friday, 29th January, 2016 – all Member meeting
Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 consultation

Thursday 11th February 2016

LSB Flintshire Local Service Board and Strategic Partnership Performance – Mid Year Monitoring
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (month 8)

Thursday 17th March 2016

101 Service Presentation By North Wales Police
Use of Consultants

Revenue Budget Monitoring (Month 9) And Capital Programme Monitoring (Month 9)
Quarter 3 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report
Workforce Information Report - Quarter 3 2015/16

Thursday 14th April 2016

Emergency Planning Service Update
Revenue Budget Monitoring 2015/16 (Month 10)
Presentation by Regional Director of BT

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Ian Roberts

Councillors: Marion Bateman, Paul Cunningham, Peter Curtis, Adele Davies-Cooke, Andy Dunbobbin, David Healey, Ray Hughes, Colin Legg, Phil Lightfoot, Dave Mackie, Nancy Matthews, Vicky Perfect, Nigel Steele-Mortimer and Carolyn Thomas,

Co-opted Members

Janine Beggan, David Hytch, Rita Price, Rebecca Stark and Reverend John Thelwell

Monday, 15th June, 2015

Terms of Reference of the Committee
School Modernisation Reviews

Thursday, 9th July, 2015

School Improvement Strategy
Year End Chief Officer Performance Report
Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports
Education for all Task & Finish Group

Thursday, 30th July, 2015

School Modernisation - School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 - John Summers High School, Post 16 Statutory proposals

School Modernisation - School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 - Saltney St David's, Post 16 Statutory Proposals
Education ICT Review
Education and Youth Senior Management Restructure

Monday, 24th August, 2015 - call in meeting

School Modernisation - School Standards and Organisation Act 2013 - John Summers High School

Thursday 17th September 2015

School Modernisation – verbal update
Update on the Flintshire Integrated Youth Provision (IYP) Delivery and Collaborative Service Model
Quarter 1 – Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports
School Transport Policy – Task & Finish Group
School Service Level Agreement (Property Repair and Maintenance)

Thursday 3rd December 2015

School Reserves as at the 31 March 2015
Update from School Standards Monitoring Group
Quarter 2 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report

Tuesday 15th December 2015

Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/2017 consultation

Wednesday 6th January 2016 (morning)

School Modernisation - School Standards And Reorganisation Action 2013 - Ysgol Maes Edwin

Wednesday 6th January 2016 (afternoon)

School Modernisation - School Standards and Reorganisation Action 2013 - Ysgol Llanfynydd
School Governor Vacancies

Tuesday 19th January 2016

2016/17 Budget for the Education & Youth Portfolio

Tuesday 15th March 2016

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
Self-Evaluation of Education Services
Early Entitlement - Changes to Delivery of Teacher Support to Approved Settings

Thursday 28th April 2016

Post 16 Education Centre
The Improvement Plan 2016/17
Quarter 3 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report
Recommendations from the School Transport Task & Finish Group

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Veronica Gay

Councillors: Haydn Bateman, Ron Davies, Glenys Diskin, Chris Dolphin, David Evans, Cindy Hinds, Ray Hughes, Hilary Isherwood, Joe Johnson, Colin Legg, Brian Lloyd, Nancy Matthews, Ann Minshull and Paul Shotton.

Thursday, 4th June, 2015

Terms of Reference of the Committee
Highways Asset Management Planning (HAMP) and Local Subsidence Schemes
Speed Limit Review

Friday, 10th July, 2015 Call in meeting

Hope Household Recycling Centre

Wednesday, 15th July, 2015

Vehicle Management System Policy
Year End Chief Officer Performance Report
Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring Report

Wednesday, 16th September, 2015

Review of Winter Maintenance
Introduction of Zero Tolerance for Littering
Speed Limit Review
Quarter 1 – Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports

Wednesday 21st October 2015

Verbal update on North Wales Residual Waste Project
Review of the Consultation Process for introducing Traffic Calming and other Highway Traffic and Safety Features on the highway

Thursday 3rd December 2015

Natural Resources Wales
Countryside Access Management System (Cams)
Q2 - Mid Year Improvement Plan Monitoring Report

Monday 7th January 2016

Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/2017

Wednesday 13th January 2016 (Call in)

Hope Household Recycling Centre (HRC) Site
Public Conveniences
Bus Subsidy Proposals

Thursday 17th March 2016

Policy for Display of 'A' Board Advertisements – Pilot Scheme for Mold Town Centre
Business Case for Solar Farms at Brookhill and Standard Landfill Sites
Quarter 3 Improvement Plan Monitoring Report

Wednesday 13th April 2016

Design of Drainage for New Development Sites
Regional Rail Issues

Update on Progress made to introduce an Integrated Transport Unit

ORGANISATIONAL CHANGE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor David Roney

Councillors: Clive Carver, Glenys Diskin, Chris Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, Andy Dunbobbin, Brian Dunn, Robin Guest, Ron Hampson, Dave Mackie, Mike Reece, Tony Sharps, Paul Shotton, Nigel Steele-Mortimer and Carolyn Thomas

Monday 8th June 2015 – Call in meeting.

Medium Term Plan for Libraries – proposal to develop a new hub library at Deeside Leisure centre and relocate Hawarden, Mancot and Queensferry Libraries.

Monday, 15th June, 2015

Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring reports
Year End Chief Officer Performance reports

Tuesday, 21st July, 2015

Community Asset Transfers

Monday 28th September 2015

Clwyd Theatr Cymru Progress Report
Alternative Delivery Models: Leisure, Libraries and Facility Management Services
Quarter 1 – Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports

Monday 2nd November 2015

The role of the Committee in supporting Organisational Change
Alternative Delivery Model Business Plans for Social Care
Establishing 'Intelligent Client' Approaches for Valuation, Property and Estates

Tuesday 8th December 2015

Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/2017 Consultation

Monday 11th January 2016

Q2 - Mid Year Improvement Plan Monitoring Report
Medium Term Libraries Plan - An Assessment of the feasibility of the Community Asset Transfer of rural Libraries

Monday 15th February 2016

Alternative Delivery Models

Tuesday 29th March 2016

Community Asset Transfers
Play Sufficiency Assessment 2016 including future plans for Consulting on Summer Play

Schemes and Play Areas
2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring

26th April 2016

Theatr Clwyd Progress Report
Welsh Public Library Standards
Alternative Delivery Models - The National Context
Improvement Plan 2016/17

**JOINT MEETINGS OF THE EDUCATION AND YOUTH AND SOCIAL AND HEALTH
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

Thursday, 4th June, 2015

Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding and Child Protection
Children & Young People's Partnership and Flying Start programme
Hearing Impairment for Adults and Children

Thursday, 24th March, 2016

Educational Attainment of Looked after Children in Flintshire
Safeguarding and Child Protection
Early Years and Family Support Service Annual Update
Corporate Parenting

SOCIAL & HEALTHCARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Chair: Councillor Carol Ellis

Councillors: Adele Davies-Cooke, Andy Dunbobbin, Veronica Gay, David Healey,
Cindy Hinds, Hilary Isherwood, Brian Lloyd, Mike Lowe, Hilary McGuill, Dave Mackie,
Mike Reece, Ian Smith, Carolyn Thomas and David Wisinger

Thursday, 14th May, 2015

Terms of Reference of the Committee
Annual Council Reporting Framework
Older People Strategy and Associated Developments
Melrose Consultation

Thursday, 18th June, 2015

Annual Report on the Social Services Representations and Complaints Procedure 2014-15
Year End Chief Officer Performance Report.
Year End Improvement Plan Monitoring reports

Thursday, 23rd July, 2015

CSSIW Safeguarding and Care Planning Looked after Children Progress Report to include
update on the demands on Children's Services

Fostering Services Inspection Report

Thursday 22nd September 2015

Review of Adoption Services Following Implementation
Review of Residential Care Home Provision in Flintshire
Melrose Centre Update
Quarter 1 – Improvement Plan Monitoring Reports

Thursday 5th November 2015

Children Services Inspection Report
Learning Disability Work Streams - 1) Change Options for Supported Living Service and 2)
Alternative Delivery Models - Day Services Learning Disabilities

Friday, 11th December, 2015

Council Fund Revenue Budget 2016/2017 consultation

Thursday 17 December 2015

Social Service Wellbeing Act Update
Q2 - Mid Year Improvement Plan Monitoring Report

Thursday 21st January 2016

CSSIW Annual Performance Report 2014/15
Adult Safeguarding Report
Extra Care Housing

Thursday 3rd March 2016

Rota Visits
CSSIW Inspection of Children's Services in Flintshire Progress update

22nd April 2016

Residential Care Review
2015/16 Q3 Improvement Plan Monitoring

Key:

C & E = Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee

CR = Corporate Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee

E & Y = Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee

E = Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

OC = Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committee

S&HC = Social and Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee

APPENDIX 2

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY OFFICER SUPPORT

The support which Overview & Scrutiny enjoys from officers across the Council is essential to ensure its smooth and effective running.

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUPPORT

The Scrutiny Team are:-

- ❖ Robert Robins – Member Engagement Manager
(principally supporting the Corporate Resources and Organisational Change Overview & Scrutiny Committees).
- ❖ Margaret Parry-Jones – Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
(principally supporting the Environment and Social & Health Care Overview & Scrutiny Committees)
- ❖ Ceri Shotton – Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator
(principally supporting the Community & Enterprise and Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committees).
- ❖ Janet Kelly – Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer
(supporting the Overview & Scrutiny Team and task & finish groups)

The team are an independent resource supporting the scrutiny function and its members:

Advising on the strategic direction and development of the scrutiny function;

- Co-ordinating the work programmes for the six Overview & Scrutiny Committees;
- Advising, supporting and assisting in the development of scrutiny members;
- Undertaking research and information analysis to help inform reviews;
- Producing reports and presentations on behalf of Members;
- Offering independent advice and guidance in relation to policy development and performance management;
- Acting as a key contact point to Members, officers, external organisations and the public in relation to scrutiny matters; and facilitating task & finish groups