COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16

1.   Introduction

1.1   In accordance with good practice, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will produce an annual report on its activities. This is the first such report since the Committee was re-established by the Council, in May 2015, as a stand-alone committee, separate from the Audit function.

1.2   Membership of the new Committee was set at 7, partially to reflect the reduction in the overall number of Members brought about by a District Electoral Review (from 44 to 34).

1.3   Although the Committee is politically balanced under the 'Widdecombe Rules', the Council's Constitution requires the Committee to operate devoid of party politics and that it not be 'whipped'. Relevant declarations to this effect have been received from the Leaders of the two political groups within the Council.

1.4   As a result of membership changes arising from the all-out District Council elections in May 2015, only two Members of the 2014/15 Audit and Scrutiny Committee became members of the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee, but this did include the Chairman. Four of the remaining five Committee Members were newly-elected to the Council, albeit that two had extensive local authority experience.

2.   Holding the Executive to Account

2.1   No executive decisions were called in during the 2015/16 Municipal Year - the Committee is satisfied that all decisions of the Cabinet and individual Cabinet Members have been taken in accordance with the principles of decision-making set out in the Council's Constitution.

2.2   The Committee has also acted as a consultee on key decisions relating to the Budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy, and the Corporate Strategy.

3.   Externally-Focussed Work

3.1   The Committee has looked into a number of externally-focussed issues during the year, including:-

- a presentation on the Cirencester Hospital Review 2015, by representatives of the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group and the Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust;
- a presentation on the Cotswold Water Park and Master Plan, by Matthew Millett, Managing Director of the Cotswold Water Park Trust.

3.2   The Committee has also maintained an overview in respect of ambulance response times within the District; and this work will continue.

3.3   Looking forward, the Committee has identified the following matters of an external nature for inclusion in its work programme:-

- GCC Highways and Transport Contract;
- Local Enterprise Partnership Presentation.

3.4   The Council is represented on the Gloucestershire County Council Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the Gloucestershire County Council Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee; and the Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel. The Committee receives regular update reports on the work of these groups, through the circulation of Minutes within the Quarterly Digest and/or Member reports/feedback as necessary.

4.   Internally-Focussed Work

4.1   In addition to the corporate matters highlighted within paragraph 2.2 above, the Committee has dealt with a number of key internal issues, including:-

- the 2020 Vision Partnership - dealing with on-going progress updates and specific matters, e.g. Principles and Organisational Model;
- a range of Development-Related matters, including the timetable for the emerging Local Plan; the Community Infrastructure Levy; Section 106 Agreements; and the Building Control Service;
- a review of the work undertaken by Eunomia Research and Consulting in respect of the Council's waste depot facility.

4.2   Two Members were appointed to assist with a review of the combined elections held in May 2015; and they will continue to provide feedback in relation to future elections.

4.3   The Committee has also continued to undertake a monitoring role in respect of service and financial performance across the Council, on a quarterly basis.

4.4   Looking forward, the Committee has identified the following matters of an internal nature for inclusion in its work programme:-

- Leisure Services - Presentation by SLM and potential review of the investment made in terms of equipment;
- Community Planning;
- CDC Parking Strategy.

5.   Other Committee Matters

5.1   The Committee considers its rolling Work Programme at each meeting; alongside, and in conjunction with, the Executive Forward Plan.

5.2   A list of the items considered at each meeting during the 2015/16 Municipal Year is attached at Table 1.

Table 1

ITEMS CONSIDERED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE IN 2015/16

Meeting Date	Item(s) Considered
19th May 2015	Election of Chairman
1st July 2015	2020 Vision Partnership Update - Principles and Organisational Model Summary Performance Report 2014/15 Year End County Matters Quarterly Digest Future Work Programme
1st September 2015	Cirencester Hospital Review 2015 (External Speakers - Becky Parish, Jonathan Jeanes and Zaheera Nanabawa of the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group; and Duncan Jordan of the Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust) Development-Related Matters, including the timetable for the emerging Local Plan; the Community Infrastructure Levy; Section 106 Agreements; and the Building Control Service 2020 Vision Programme Summary Finance/Service Performance Report - 2015/16 Quarter 1 County Matters Quarterly Digest Future Work Programme
1st December 2015	Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2018/19 Draft Corporate Strategy 2016-2019 Summary Finance/Service Performance Report - 2015/16 Quarter 2 County Matters Quarterly Digest Future Work Programme
9th February 2016 (Special Meeting)	Eunomia Research and Consulting Draft Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2019/20 and Budget 2016/17
1st March 2016	Cotswold Water Park and Master Plan (External Speaker - Matthew Millett, Managing Director of the Cotswold Water Park Trust) Summary Finance/Service Performance Report - 2015/16 Quarter 3 Elections Review - Update County Matters Quarterly Digest Future Work Programme

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