

<b>Report title:</b> Scrutiny Activity		<b>Agenda Item 7</b>
<b>Report to:</b> Full Council		
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<b>Date:</b> 13 February 2018	<b>For:</b> Discussion	
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## 1. Introduction

This report provides brief summary of the scrutiny activity which has taken place over the last two years. Appendix 1 sets out the position in more detail.

The Council continues to face challenging budget pressures, which have been compounded by uncertainty due to the shifting national political environment.

Despite these challenges, the Council has endeavoured to take proactive action to address current and future challenges, and deliver improved services for the residents of Essex.

The Council's policy and scrutiny committees have had a busy period, with a diverse work programme across all four committees.

This report and its Appendix, details this scrutiny activity and shows the positive impact that the committees have had in the organisation. Much good scrutiny activity has been undertaken during this period of consolidation which has seen the intake of a new cohort of councillors as well as a number of staffing changes affecting scrutiny, including the appointment of the Head of Service as the statutory scrutiny officer. There are examples of good work and positive outcomes of which members can be proud across each of the Committees.

## 2. Induction

Following the County Council elections in May 2017 an induction programme took place which supported new members to the council and the committee understand the role and remit of the committee as well as acting as a refresher for those who returned following the election.

## 3. Executive Summary of Activity

### Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee – Chairman Councillor Mike Mackrory

- The committee has had regular reports and presentations around the financial management of the Council, this includes reviewing the budget before it is presented to Council, the half year reports and the reserves.
- A Task and Finish Group was established to review and suggest improvements to the Member Enquiries Service, a number of these have been implemented or are being undertaken.

- The committee received a report from the Essex Coroner as well as the opportunity to visit the Coroner's Office and Jury Accommodation. The committee will monitor the improvements required and have asked for further reports.

### **Health Overview Policy and Scrutiny Committee – Chairman Councillor Jill Reeves**

- The committee has undertaken a significant amount of joint work with neighbouring authorities to review the merger of Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals, the PET CT scanner for South Essex, Complex urological cancer surgery and Emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people.
- Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committees have been established to review and monitor the Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships (STPs) as Essex has three STPs whose boundaries are beyond the Council's jurisdiction.

### **People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee – Chairman Councillor Malcolm Maddocks**

- The committee has established a number of task and finish groups to review specific activity and issues these include: Educational Attainment, Carers Service, Residential and Domiciliary Care and Young Carers. Each of the groups made recommendations and these have been embedded into the service and beyond these included linking early years provision, holding a seminar and member training and visits.
- The committee received three call-ins, these were: Procurement and Final Award of a New Model to Deliver Integrated Pre-Birth to 19 Health, Wellbeing and Family Support Services (two decisions) and Housing Related Support: Post 16 Services.

### **Place Services and Economic Growth Policy Scrutiny Committee – Chairman Councillor Eddie Johnson**

- The committee has established a number of task and finish groups to review specific areas of work, these include: Jobs, welfare and skills, Country Park charging and localism and subsidiary. Each of the groups has or will made recommendations, many of which are implemented.
- The committee has also received reports on the mobile library consultation, culture, housing developments and gypsies and travellers.
- The committee received two call-ins: Street lighting and Proposed One-Way 7.5 Tonnes Weight Limit on a road in Rivenhall.