

Overview and Scrutiny Issues

1. A Snapshot of some of the Scrutiny Work currently being undertaken

Corporate Scrutiny

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee has met three times since the May elections and has considered standing items such as Transformation II and the Budget Outturn. Additionally, the Committee has established two Task and Finish Groups which are looking at the ECC Procurement Strategy, and *Your Essex Public Engagement*, which is part of the wider *Engaging Essex* Strategy.

The next meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is Tuesday, 22 October at 9.30 a.m. in Committee Room 2. For further information contact Robert Fox on 01245 430526 or email: robert.fox@essex.gov.uk .

Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee

The Committee has met twice since May. At their June meeting the Committee received a report on maternity services in NE Essex and gave first consideration to their work programme for the year.

At its last meeting the Committee considered an update on issues arising from the Keogh Report, and, as a result, a request for a written update on its action plan has been requested from Basildon Hospital. A request to attend a future HOSC meeting has also been extended to the Hospital. A report on Stroke Services was also received with the HOSC supporting the proposals contained within the report.

Future work includes a presentation from the East of England Ambulance Service at the next HOSC meeting on 9 October. Other future work includes a report from Colchester Hospital and a report on the Pan Essex Maternity Capacity Plan. For further information contact Miles Smith on 01245 432133 or email miles.smith@essex.gov.uk .

People and Families

The work of the People and Families Scrutiny Committee has been dominated by the future of The Deanes School. A Task and Finish Group report was ratified by the full Committee at its last meeting. The Task and Finish Group worked throughout July and August and delivered the report to assist the Cabinet Member in coming to his decision in early September.

The Committee has agreed to meet with the Cabinet of the Young Essex Assembly to see how it can work with the YEA in the future.

Much of the future workload of the Committee will be undertaken through Task and Finish Groups and includes Children in Care; Special Educational Needs and Disability; Carers Strategy; and Children's Centres and Early Years.

Members of the Committee are to undertake an Adult Social Care case training session on 28 October. The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 14 November at 10.00 a.m. in Committee Room 1. For further information contact Robert Fox on 01245 430526 or email robert.fox@essex.gov.uk .

Place Services & Economic Growth

The Place Services and Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee has had various briefings to learn more about its remit and develop its work programme that will include in depth reviews on the Future of Recycling Centres for Household Waste; Integrated Passenger Transport; Economic Growth Strategy; Government Consultation on Aviation Policy; and Parking Partnerships.

At its last meeting it gave some preliminary consideration to the Cabinet's response to two recently-completed reviews on Financial Inclusion, and Off Site Emergency Planning Arrangements around COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Sites in Essex. Both scrutiny reports have been generally well received. Further work will be conducted by the Committee to analyse how scrutiny may have promoted improvements in practice.

At present part of the Committee's focus is upon the implementation of Part Night Street Lighting, and a Task and Finish Group is due to investigate the current consultation process and application of new technology.

The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 24 October in Committee Room 1. For further information contact Christine Sharland on 01245 430450 or email christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk .

The Scrutiny Board

The Scrutiny Board has organised a training session for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Scrutiny Committees to be facilitated by Mark Palmer, Development Director at South East Employers, between 10.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. on Thursday, 17 October.

The purpose of the event is to enable Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen to understand and develop the leadership role of overview and scrutiny; and to consider all aspects of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman's role in order to support improvement and develop performance. This session will build upon the two previous sessions for Members of Scrutiny Committees held in July and September. These two sessions were well attended with 27 Members benefitting from sessions which have been fully evaluated and highly regarded (in excess of 80% of those attending identifying the sessions were excellent or good; and in excess of 85% indicating the session met their objectives).

For further information contact Miles Smith on 01245 432133 or email miles.smith@essex.gov.uk .

Simon Walsh
Chairman of the Scrutiny Board