

Report from the Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission

Since my last report, the first cycle of Scrutiny meetings for 2019/20 has been completed:

- Scrutiny Commission – 6th June
- Performance Scrutiny Panel – 20th June (concluded 3rd July)
- Communities Scrutiny Panel – 27th June

Some of the main outcomes from the cycle were:

Scrutiny Commission:

As well as considering a report on Quarter 4 Performance, the Commission agreed the framework for the Scrutiny Workplan for the forthcoming year. It doing so, it has reduced the number of regular update reports going to the Scrutiny Panels, so that this time can be devoted to the scrutiny of important items.

The full Workplan will be made available online on the Council's Committee management system and individual reports will be included on the Combined Workplan, which is circulated to all Members each week.

The membership and meeting dates of the Scrutiny Task Group to inform and consider the impact of the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan from the perspective of the Harborough District have now been agreed.

Task Group meetings will be held on:

- Thursday July 11th
- Tuesday 10th September
- Thursday 10th October

Performance Panel:

Cllr Modha was elected as Chairman of the Panel.

The Panel received reports covering:

- Financial Performance Outturn 2018/19: the Panel commented on and noted the report
- Special Expenses: the Panel asked questions and noted the report
- Economic Development Strategy: the Panel commented on the draft revised Strategy before it went to Cabinet
- The Council's working arrangements with SLM (Everyone Active): the Panel requested brief bi-annual updates on the arrangements
- Corporate Property Strategy: the Panel commented on the draft strategy, especially in relation to public open space and value thresholds. The Strategy will now progress to Cabinet and Council.

- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA): it was noted that the Council has not yet invoked RIPA powers. It was clarified that reports on RIPA needed to be brought to each meeting of the Panel.

Communities Panel:

Cllr Mrs Ackerley was elected as Chairman of the Panel.

The Panel received reports covering:

- Annual Review - Community Safety Partnership: the Panel was able to ask questions of the Council's partners.
- Anti-social Behaviour Policy Review: the Panel commented on the draft Policy.
- Built Sports Facilities Strategy: the Panel was able to comment on, and have an early input into, the developing Strategy. A later draft will be considered by the Panel in September.

Future Scrutiny Events

The following meetings have been scheduled:

- 19/09/2019 Performance Scrutiny Panel
- 26/09/2019 Communities Scrutiny Panel

Training

Induction training for Scrutiny Commission members is now completed and copies of the training materials and links to supporting documents have been circulated to all Members.

Cllr Mrs R. Page
Chairman of the Scrutiny Commission
Harborough District Council