

# Annual Scrutiny Report

## 2016/2017



## **Foreword**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2016/2017 Annual Scrutiny Report. The report highlights the key areas of work that each Panel and the main committee have concentrated on during the past municipal year.

The main committee and each of the panels have had a busy year. This report highlights their key achievements. I hope it accurately reflects the level of detailed work undertaken by the panels and Committee.

In particular, the scrutiny committees have undertaken vital work on the following crucial issues:-

- The excellent work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel on housing. 2016 – 17 has been a year in which the Council's Housing Service have undertaken a significant amount of work on areas such as the Housing Revenue Account, the allocations policy and resolving homelessness. Through a co-ordinated approach, these two committees have supported the service and provided informed comment on the impact of proposals, helping shape Council policy for the future.
- The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel has also assisted with the return of the Education Service to Slough Borough Council. Through detailed discussions with the new officers responsible for the service, the Panel have identified a number of crucial areas for actions (e.g. differences in outcomes for local children by ethnicity, the National Funding Formula). The Panel have also established a close working relationship with the Slough Children's Services Trust and the new Chair of the Slough Local Safeguarding Children's Board.
- The Health Scrutiny Panel has assisted with the transformation programme for adult social care. This has involved shaping the offer for adults with learning disabilities, the programme of digital innovations for service users and the local account. The Panel have also considered these matters in the wider context of the Sustainability and Transformation Plan.
- The feedback provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has had a significant impact on the reporting of performance and financial management information. This has helped move reporting to a clearer and more consistent style, providing both members and the local community with a clearer picture of the Council's services.

I hope the report does justice to the quality of the work carried out by the panels this year and gives an insight into the diverse nature of the areas which have been scrutinised.

I would like to thank my own Vice Chair as well as the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all the panels for their support and leadership throughout the year. On behalf of all the Chairs and Vice Chairs I would also like to thank sincerely all members, officers and partners who have contributed to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function over the past year.



**Councillor Mohammed Nazir  
Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

## Introduction

In 2002, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister set out the role of Overview and Scrutiny in local authorities, its powers and work.

*“Overview and Scrutiny is potentially the most exciting and powerful element of the entire local government modernisation process. It places Members at the heart of the way in which Councils respond to the demands of modernisation. In addition, Overview and Scrutiny is the mechanism by which Councils can achieve community leadership, good governance and by which Councillors can become powerful and influential politicians.”*

In order to do this, Scrutiny Committees have three key roles:

- Holding the Cabinet to account
- Policy development and review
- External scrutiny

Through requesting information and questioning decision-makers an Overview Scrutiny Committee can review the quality of local services, hold decision-makers to account (whether the Cabinet or other statutory bodies such as NHS Trusts), and put forward ideas for developing and improving services.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny has set out the four principles for effective scrutiny as:

- critical friendship to decision-makers
- engaging the public, enabling the voice of the public and communities to be heard in the process
- owning the process with non-Executive Members driving the scrutiny process
- making an impact through driving forward improvements in public services

To achieve the desired quality of effective scrutiny, an Overview and Scrutiny function must:

- be independent
- be robust, rigorous and challenging
- fully engage all non-Executive Members
- come from a positive culture that supports and promotes the process
- involve local citizens and service users
- ensure that its purpose is clear and widely understood
- demonstrate the value added
- be creative in its ways of monitoring service performance
- have dedicated resources
- bring the conclusions of its Reviews to the attention of Full Council
- have a comprehensive Member Development programme

The questions an Overview and Scrutiny Function must ask itself in terms of its own effectiveness are:

- Is it effectively holding decision-makers to account?
- Is it helping to improve services?
- Is it building links between the Council, its partners and the community?
- Is it helping to improve the quality of life for local people?
- Is it adding value?

The Annual Report looks to assess the effectiveness of the work done by the Overview and Scrutiny Function at Slough Borough Council in the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

### **Overview and Scrutiny at Slough Borough Council**

The Overview and Scrutiny Function at Slough Borough Council is made up of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and three standing Panels: Health Scrutiny Panel, Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel, and Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel.

The Panels enable greater focus on specific subject matter, while the overarching Overview and Scrutiny Committee focuses on cross-cutting issues, corporate, financial and performance management of the Council. The Committee and Panels look to work closely together, using joint meetings where appropriate, to develop their work programmes and effectively scrutinise the work of the Council and its partners.

Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and three Panels receive research and administrative support from a dedicated Scrutiny Officer; with Democratic Services also providing committee administration to the main Committee and Health Scrutiny Panel.

### **Getting Involved**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and all three Panels meet in public, and welcome members of the public who wish to observe proceedings.

The agendas and related papers are published on the Slough Borough Council website five working days in advance of any meeting and are available to download for free.

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### Membership:

Councillor Nazir (Chair)  
Councillor Bedi  
Councillor Parmar  
Councillor A Sandhu  
Councillor Usmani

Councillor Strutton (Vice Chair)  
Councillor N Holledge  
Councillor Sadiq  
Councillor R Sandhu

Constitutionally, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will undertake the following:

- review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive, Committees and Council Officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets, data quality and/or particular service areas;
- question Members of the Executive, Committees and Directors about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- make recommendations to the Executive and/or appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

In order to undertake this work, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has appointed three Standing Panels to cover specific remits of works:

- Health Scrutiny Panel – undertaking the Council’s statutory responsibility to scrutinise provision of healthcare in the local area, as well as the Cabinet portfolio for Health & Social Care.
- Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel – scrutinising the Cabinet portfolio for Education & Children’s Services.
- Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel – scrutinising the Cabinet portfolios for Housing & Urban Renewal, Environment & Leisure and Transport & Highways.

This delegation of work allows the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to take an overarching view of the work of the council and its partners, as well as specifically focusing on the Cabinet portfolios of Finance & Strategy, Digital Transformation & Customer Care and Regulation & Consumer Protection.

## **Specific focuses of work**

### **Budget Pressures**

As the committee with the widest strategic overview of the Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been monitoring the budget closely. This has taken the format of both the work on the budget for all areas (conducted every February) and specific investigations into areas such as adult social care, housing and the new Environmental Services Company.

The Committee have also played a key role in the reshaping of the quarterly performance and finance monitoring reports. Previously, these reported on 91 key performance indicators and offered a range of reporting styles for the different projects sitting under the overall headings. On the basis of the feedback by the Committee, the reports now focus on a far smaller number of prioritised KPIs (17) and also has made reporting more uniform. This has helped streamline the process and also provide both members and the public with a more meaningful overview of the Council's performance.

In terms of the budget, Cabinet has asked for the Committee's recommendation regarding fees for the burial and crematorium services to be investigated further. The Committee has also provided advice on the establishment of the new Environmental Services Company and the recent announcements regarding Slough's Housing Strategy. The call-in regarding the proposed rents for Slough's houses also had a direct impact on the final policy, with the Council opting to offer two rates; one reflects traditional fees, whilst the other allows Slough Borough Council increased income where tenants can afford it.

### **Leisure Services**

The issue which provided the most public interest in the Committee's work took place back in July 2016. This related to the proposals for a temporary ice rink, and allowed a range of community representatives (e.g. Slough Community Leisure, Special People on Ice, the Slough Jets Ice Hockey Club) to contribute to the debate. With the Committee's support, the meeting was able to recommend to Cabinet that any final proposals needed to ensure that any temporary solution should be able to accommodate the needs of all current users.

### **Slough Town Centre**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has taken an interest in the ability of the town centre to attract visitors from outside Slough in recent years. This has taken the form of regular examinations of the plans of Slough Urban Renewal (especially keynote projects such as The Curve), the impact of littering and street lighting on perception of the town (taken in September 2016) and a Task & Finish Group on parking in the town centre. In March 2017, the Committee discussed plans to regenerate the area, especially in light of the recent announcement by the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority). This discussion led to the Committee asking Cabinet to investigate the potential of creating a Business Improvement District. This initiative, if implemented, would ask businesses to contribute to a localised project, targeting any specific issues which were viewed as pivotal for Slough.

### **Corporate Strategy – The Five Year Plan**

The Committee has also ensured that the new priorities of the Cabinet, as set out in the new Five Year Plan, will be monitored effectively and regularly. The outcomes have been assigned across the scrutiny bodies as follows:

- Our children and young people will have the best start in life and opportunities to give them positive lives – to be scrutinised by the Education and Children’s Services Scrutiny Panel.
- Our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs – to be scrutinised by the Health Scrutiny Panel.
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and visit – to be scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Our residents will have access to good quality homes – to be scrutinised by the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel.
- Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide jobs and opportunities for our residents – to be scrutinised by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Each of these will be scrutinised once every 6 months, ensuring that the overall performance of the Council is thoroughly interrogated in the future on a regular basis.

**Note:** The full work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2016/17 municipal year is attached as Appendix A.

## **Health Scrutiny Panel**

### **Membership:**

Councillor Pantelic (Chair)

Councillor Chaudhry

Councillor Chohan

Councillor Mann

Councillor Smith

Colin Pill (Healthwatch Slough)

Councillor Strutton (Vice Chair)

Councillor Cheema

Councillor M Holledge

Councillor Qaseem

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoints the Health Scrutiny Panel to undertake its constitutional role looking at the specific Cabinet Portfolio for Health and Wellbeing. In addition, the Health Scrutiny Panel also undertakes the statutory Council responsibility to scrutinise the provision for healthcare in the local area.

### **Specific focuses of work**

#### **Adult Social Care**

The Health Scrutiny Panel has had a key role in the transformation of Adult Social Care. The service has moved from one where the local authority dictated the provision on offer to one in which users have greater influence on how they access care. The Transformation Programme is moving future provision to one where those requiring care are offered personalised budgets and a variety of options as to how that budget is employed.

The Panel has been broadly supportive of these aims, but has also sought to reflect concerns. These have included matters such as ensuring those with physical or mental barriers to receiving and processing information are offered support in making informed choices, ensuring that individualised care does not lead to loneliness or social isolation and ensuring that families, carers and providers have the appropriate means of communicating effectively to secure the best outcomes. As the Transformation Programme gathers momentum, the Panel will be taking considerable and regular interest in its proposals and outcomes.

#### **Services for users with learning disabilities**

A major element in the required rearrangement of Slough's offer to residents is the move from residential care to supported living accommodation. Given the increased autonomy involved in this, the Panel have been keen to ensure that the required safeguards are in place to protect those involved in this adjustment.

The particular issue of Elliman Road centre has been monitored by the Panel. Issues of significant importance to members have included staffing issues, the range and quality of community based provision and the retention of friendship groups which had been created by the centre. As a result of this, the Panel secured an undertaking that the impact on friendship groups would be monitored and appropriate actions taken, and also that the staff affected by the changes would be consulted to prepare them for the new service.

These matters are to be taken forward in the new Municipal Year; the Panel's first meeting of 2017 – 18 will feature a detailed report on the impact of the changes. This will include feedback from service users and their families, and also detailed tracking information on the impact of the changes to service users.



### Joint Wellbeing Strategy

The Joint Wellbeing Strategy has been subject to significant change; in particular, the governance arrangements and partnership work have been appraised.

The Panel have stressed the importance of ensuring that housing is a central element in any refreshed strategy. Members have expressed an interest in monitoring the suitability of new housing developments for disabled or vulnerable tenants. The Panel also clarified its desire for any applications for Disabled Facilities Grants to be assessed promptly and for the decisions made to be based on sound priorities. These points have been fed back into the refresh and informed the final launch of the strategy in late 2016.

### Frimley Park NHS Foundation Trust and the Sustainability and Transformation Plan

Whilst the acquisition of Heatherwood and Wexham Park have been downgraded as priorities (given the excellent progress made in the initial stages of the arrangement), the Panel remains keenly aware of the need for scrutiny on the matter.

The Foundation Trust addressed the Panel in October 2016, reporting on the CQC report which had moved Wexham Park from 'Inadequate' to 'Good'. Whilst this progress was warmly welcomed, the Panel remain conscious of several issues in need of resolution. Nursing vacancies still required filling (although the number had declined), and the Panel stressed the need to continue with proactive and innovative solutions to this matter. The possible implications of proposed building works at the hospital, and their compliance with land ownership questions, was also explored. In terms of logistics, the Chief Executive of the Trust pledged to increase on-site parking in response to the Panel's requests. The Panel is also keen to stress the importance of access to the site via the bus service; this is a matter which will continue to be monitored by the Panel given the amendments made by First Bus to service provision.

The future of the NHS in the area will also be subject to the changes proposed by the Sustainability and Transformation Plan. As with many similar STPs across the country, the Plan will be based on a move to a 'hub based' approach; this will increase the effective size of NHS Trusts, and is scheduled to be enacted in 2019. Given the importance of this issue, the Panel will be seeking to have an impact on the STP proposals. Consideration may also be required as to how a scrutiny body can be established which reflects the geography of the 'Frimley Footprint'. A members' briefing and initial agenda items have alerted the Panel to this matter.

**Note:** The full work programme for the Health Scrutiny Panel for the 2016/17 municipal year is attached as Appendix B.

## **Neighbourhoods' and Community Services Scrutiny Panel**

### Membership:

Councillor Plenty (Chair)  
Councillor Davis  
Councillor Rana  
Councillor Swindlehurst

Councillor Anderson  
Councillor N Holledge  
Councillor Rasib  
Councillor Wright

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoints the Neighbourhoods' and Community Services Scrutiny Panel (NCS Scrutiny Panel) to undertake its constitutional role looking at the specific Cabinet Portfolios for neighbourhoods and renewal, community and leisure, and environment and open spaces.

### **Specific focuses of work**

#### Housing

The Panel has seen a significant rise in the amount of work it has done on housing in 2016 – 17 compared to previous years. It has worked to streamline the reporting on KPIs, ensuring that members receive a selected range of the most relevant statistics showing the service's functioning. In this regard, the Panel made the following recommendations at its meeting in July 2016:

1. That SBC officers undertake work on forming a Panel including Councillors and residents, dedicated to evaluating the performance of the Housing Service.
2. That Councillors be nominated by the Panel to meet with the Residents' Panel.
3. That future reports on performance include refinements based on the Panel's requests (e.g. benchmarking data).

Having undertaken this work, since the autumn the Panel have been receiving this focused information; the Working Group alluded to in recommendation 1 above have proved invaluable in this matter.

Whilst the Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook the review of the overall strategy, the Panel have also provided insight into specific areas of the service. The Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements (RMI) contract is of critical importance to residents, and the Panel have provided oversight of improved contractual arrangements for tenants as the handover approaches. The Panel has also clarified the obligations and responsibilities of tenants and the Council with regard to garages, and has taken a keen interest in resident engagement. On this matter, the Panel have recommended that a Consultative Commissioning Group be established; this body is now engaged in giving local residents a real voice in the future of the service.

#### Transport – Roads

The road network in Slough has seen a number of major alterations in 2016 – 17 which have been of interest to the Panel and local residents. In particular, the experimental scheme in Langley have been examined by the Panel.

Whilst aware of the rationale behind the scheme, the Panel have worked hard to mitigate the impact on the road network. By working their way through the technicalities involved in the scheme, and reflecting the voices of those from the local population impacted by the changes, the Panel have sought to add a constructive viewpoint and clarify the best options for the future.

Through this discussion, the Panel recommended the termination of the experimental scheme to Cabinet in February 2017 on the grounds that it had gathered the relevant information. The Panel will also be receiving information on the long term future of the road network in the area once uncertainties regarding the infrastructure projects causing the alterations (e.g. HS2) have been clarified.

#### Transport – Public

The matter which has generated the most debate on public transport has been that of Real Time Passenger Information (RTPI) for bus users. Members have expressed concern at the low levels of detection, leading to RTPI display boards often displaying generic timetable information rather than specific information on the punctuality of buses.

Having explored the IT, compatibility and management structure issues with a direct impact on this, the Panel have ensured that future arrangements avoid similarly diffuse arrangements for overall responsibility.

They have also received information on the new specification. This has allayed concerns over the issues raised above being repeated, although the Panel may return to the matter once it is in operation.

#### Crime and Disorder Reduction Panel – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

The Panel undertook its statutory responsibility to hold a Crime and Disorder Committee. The main debate of the evening concerned the Safer Slough Partnership, Thames Valley Police and the Council's motion of 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016, which read:

*“This Council resolves to work with Thames Valley Police through the Safer Slough Partnership to prioritise its response to counter the increase in serious sex crimes around the town and to reduce the fear of sexual assault across the Borough.”*

The Panel ascertained progress made on the matter, with the Safer Slough Partnership having identified Salt Hill Park as a key area for any work on public safety. Through actions such as cutting bushes which were limiting visibility, increased lighting and alerting local emergency services to activity in the area, there had been an increased profile in preventing such crimes. A Parks & Open Spaces Task & Finish Group (established by the Safer Slough Partnership) had also been established to investigate public safety and the prevention of sexual assault in public areas.

However, the Panel requested that the Safer Slough Partnership also establish a separate priority dedicated solely to sexual violence. This will be considered by the Partnership, who have also subsequently discussed the matter with Councillors.

Other matters discussed by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Panel included:

- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Modern slavery
- Organised crime
- Traffic policing
- Balance of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers

**Note:** The full work programme for the Neighbourhoods' and Community Services Scrutiny Panel for the 2016/17 municipal year is attached as Appendix C.

## **Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel**

### **Membership:**

Councillor Brooker (Chair)	Councillor Chahal (Vice Chair)
Councillor Anderson	Councillor Chohan
Councillor N Holledge	Councillor Pantelic
Councillor Qaseem	Councillor Sadiq
Jo Rockall (Secondary Teacher Representative)	
Maggie Stacey (Head Teacher Representative)	
Hamzah Ahmed (Slough Youth Parliament)	

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoints the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel (ECS Scrutiny Panel) to undertake its constitutional role looking at the specific Cabinet Portfolios for education and children, and opportunities and skills.

### **Specific focuses of work**

#### **Slough Children's Services Trust**

Since its formation in October 2015, the Trust has been keen to engage with members and gain their input and support. As well as the Joint Delivery Plan (discussed below), the Trust has undertaken a variety of initiatives to improve provision. The Panel have been supportive of this aim, and have offered challenge on a variety of matters such as working culture, use of agency staff and governance.

The meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 was dedicated to the first year of the Trust. The Panel took special interest in pursuing progress made on the Virtual School for Looked After Children, the need for innovation in the service (e.g. the Mockingbird Family model for foster care) and the new standards by which existing staff were being appraised. The Panel have also been very interested in ensuring that governance arrangements provide a clear and logical process to establish the precise responsibilities of the Trust, the Council, partner organisations and members. The Panel also recommended that the Trust revisit the files of potential foster carers; the Panel felt that many may have lapsed as they were discouraged by the previous regime.

#### **Return of educational services to Slough Borough Council**

Another vital alteration to services in Slough has been the completion of the contract with Cambridge Education and the return of responsibilities to the Council. Given the relatively late nature of this decision and the compressed timeframe it created, the Panel has sought confirmation that all aspects of the transfer were satisfactory and that its future operation is sound. The Panel supported the services' exemption from some aspects of the recruitment freeze for Council staff and the successful transfer of other staff from Cambridge Education. It has also sought to clarify how the Council and Trust interact (e.g. the responsibility for performance managing the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Children's Board) how the service would be incorporated into bodies such as the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub.

#### **SLSCB**

Given the negative findings of the 2016 Ofsted report, the Panel has asked the new Chair of the Board for clarification on the improvement process. The Panel discussed the 6 themes identified by the Chair, and sought clarification as to why the sub group on education was not performing as well as others which had been established and how this would be rectified. Whilst broadly receptive to the innovations introduced by the new Chair of the Board, the Panel also expressed concern that the relationship between the Board and the Council was still less clear than had been hoped. The Panel will return to how the Chair's performance is managed in 2017 – 18.

### Corporate Parenting Strategy

Given the major gaps in corporate parenting highlighted by Ofsted's 2016 report, the Panel has played a crucial role in overseeing and monitoring the creation of an effective strategy. The Panel stressed the need for the prioritisation of female genital mutilation as an issue for detection, the voices of young people and children in care to be reflected in the design of services and the effective functioning of the Virtual School.

The Panel have also requested that they be kept informed on the outcomes for Looked After Children, particularly those offered work experience.

### Underachievement in white British children

The pattern of white British children underachieving at GCSE level has been emerging as a national issue in education. Examination results for 2016 confirmed that this was reflected in Slough, and members have expressed an interest in reviewing this matter further. To this end, an item on a costed plan for schools has been requested for the autumn of 2017 whilst a research paper outlining a) the national debate on causes for the trend and b) local initiatives aimed at improving outcomes for white British children has also been circulated to assist discussions.

### National Funding Formula

On 31<sup>st</sup> January, Council referred the matter of the National Funding Formula to the Panel for further discussion. The Panel received information outlining the impact of the proposals on local schools, which are likely to be mostly to the detriment of schools. Given the potential impact of this on provision (e.g. reduced syllabuses, increased class sizes, 4 day school week for Key Stage 3 classes) the Panel were strongly minded to voice their concerns over the move.

The Panel's points will be included in the consultation process to Government, whilst the progress of the matter will be taken by the Panel in late 2017.

**Note:** The full work programme for the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel for the 2016/17 municipal year is attached as Appendix D.

## **Looking Forward**

Whilst the absence of elections guarantees greater stability in terms of the elected members at Slough Borough Council, the 2017 – 18 Municipal Year offers its own challenges. With the previous year having seen the change in the leadership of the authority, the coming year will provide a real chance for the new administration to clarify their long term objectives. As a result, scrutiny will be performing a vital role in offering policy advice and ensuring that Cabinet receives practical ideas for the future of service provision.

With the current climate of austerity now well established across local authorities, Councillors have become well accustomed to operating within constraints. However, the financial year 2018 – 19 promises to be one of particular hardship, and preparations for the required changes will be a central element of our work. In terms of specific areas, adult social care has become an area in need of transformative change; members are well apprised of this and have placed the matter at the centre of their plans. The fact that the Council resumed direct control of local authority maintained schools, alongside the pressures of the proposed National Funding Formula will require in depth consideration. The issue of underachievement amongst white British students is an issue in Slough (as it is on a national basis) and may well need specific investigation. Meanwhile, there are indications (through the proposals for the Environmental Service) that the new administration will be looking to provide more services directly; this will also be of interest to scrutiny in 2017 – 18.

As is ever the case, members are reminded that scrutiny need not be confined to the meetings of Committees. Task & Finish Groups offer one very real and often effective means of policy review. By conducting an investigation into a specific area, and using methods that are not constrained by the procedures of committee meetings (e.g. site visits, bespoke research, questionnaires for service users) a sense of the realities for service provision can be gained. It also allows for members to make a number of highly specific recommendations, based on input from a wide range of individuals or external organisations that may rarely attend our committees. In addition, the ongoing work of a committee can be conducted outside of meetings; whether that is requests for information, online conversations on questions that have arisen or arranging meetings with key stakeholders.

Members are also reminded that the Scrutiny Officer will be receptive to any fresh ideas, skills or ideas which enhance the process of effective scrutiny. Whether the members for 2017 – 18 are long established or participating in these bodies for the first time, all can contribute fully to the process. Members are also reminded that, from May onwards, there will be a series of training events (including scrutiny on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017) which will build on existing skills and also help develop new approaches, ensuring the Scrutiny Function delivers defined results and adds value to the work of the council.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

Meeting Date
<b>14 June 2016</b>
<b>Administrative Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of Panels</li> <li>• Work programme (supported by training event prior to meeting)</li> </ul>
<b>14 July 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leisure Capital Programme – Slough Ice Arena and temporary ice rink</li> <li>• Burnham Station – experimental road scheme</li> <li>• Thames Valley Transactional Service – Annual Report</li> </ul>
<b>15 September 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q1 Performance and Finance Report</li> <li>• Electoral cycle</li> <li>• Procurement of Environmental Services</li> <li>• Littering, fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour</li> </ul>

<b>Meeting Date</b>
<b>17 November 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call in: Housing Revenue Business Account</li><li>• Q2 Performance and Finance Report</li><li>• Adult Social Care Transformation</li><li>• Housing – future scrutiny approach</li><li>• Local Plan</li></ul>
<b>20 December 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Five Year Plan – scrutiny approach</li><li>• Draft Housing Strategy</li><li>• Homelessness</li></ul>
<b>12 January 2017</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Bus – changes to services</li><li>• Q2 – Performance and Projects report</li><li>• Financial report – month 7</li><li>• Housing Revenue Business Account</li><li>• Environmental Services – Local Authority Controlled Company</li><li>• Transport Strategy</li></ul>



<b>Meeting Date</b>
<b>2 February 2017</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thames Valley Transactional Service – half year update</li><li>• Budget Papers:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Revenue Budget 2017 – 18</li><li>○ Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017 – 2021</li><li>○ Treasury Management Strategy 2017 – 18</li><li>○ Capital Strategy 2017 – 2023</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>9 March 2017</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town Centre management</li><li>• Economic growth and impact on local residents</li></ul>
<b>13 April 2017</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Police and Crime Commissioner</li><li>• LGA Communications Peer Review</li><li>• Q3 Performance and Financial Management</li><li>• Review of public liability</li></ul> <b>Information Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Petitions – annual review</li></ul> <b>Endorsement Item</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Scrutiny Annual Report</li></ul>

**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

<b>Meeting Date</b>
<b>30 June 2016</b>
<b>Administrative Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Chair</li> <li>• Election of Vice Chair</li> </ul> <b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to health scrutiny</li> <li>• Slough's Learning Disability Plan</li> </ul>
<b>1 September 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frimley Sustainability and Transformation Plan</li> <li>• Better Care Fund</li> <li>• Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2016 – 2020</li> </ul>
<b>6 October 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparedness for Winter</li> <li>• Options for Modernisation of Community Nursing Services</li> <li>• Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust – update</li> <li>• Adult Social Care – local account</li> <li>• Slough Safeguarding Adults Partnership – Annual Report</li> </ul>

<b>Meeting Date</b>
<b>23 November 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Frimley Sustainability and Transformation Plan</li><li>• Reconfiguration of services for adults with learning disabilities</li><li>• Slough Central update</li></ul>
<b>19 January 2017</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Slough CCG – Operating Plan 2017 – 19</li><li>• Leisure Strategy - update</li><li>• Bus Services – Wexham Park</li></ul>
<b>27 March 2017</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital innovations</li><li>• Five Year Plan – outcome 2 (our people will become healthier and will manage their own health, care and support needs)</li><li>• Slough Wellbeing Board – Annual Report</li><li>• Public transport services to healthcare facilities</li></ul>

**NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

<b>Meeting Date</b>
<b>19 June 2016</b>
<b>Administrative Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Chair</li> <li>• Election of Vice Chair</li> </ul> <b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport – road management issues</li> <li>• Housing – performance management and reporting</li> <li>• Local authority housing – service charges</li> </ul>
<b>8 September 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real Time Passenger Information</li> <li>• Hollow Hill Lane – experimental scheme</li> <li>• Garage licence review</li> </ul>
<b>3 November 2016</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real Time Passenger Information</li> <li>• Housing Service – resident involvement</li> <li>• Garage repairs</li> <li>• Housing Revenue Account Business Plan</li> <li>• Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements Service – progress on new contract</li> </ul>

Meeting Date
<b>17 January 2017</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market Lane – long term alternatives for road network</li> <li>• Allotments</li> <li>• Housing – rents policy</li> <li>• Housing – Scrutiny Overview Indicators</li> <li>• Real Time Passenger Information</li> </ul>
<b>2 March 2017</b>
<b>CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PANEL</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thames Valley Police – overview</li> <li>• Safer Slough Partnership</li> <li>• Reference from Council, 26<sup>th</sup> July: sexual assaults</li> </ul>
<b>4 April 2017</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football pitch hire</li> <li>• Homelessness</li> <li>• Housing Revenue Account – Business Plan</li> <li>• Development Initiative Slough Housing</li> </ul>

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

<b>Meeting Date</b>
<b>19 July 2016</b>
<b>Administrative Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Chair</li> <li>• Election of Vice Chair</li> </ul> <b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School places</li> <li>• Ofsted Delivery Plan</li> <li>• Section 11 safeguarding audits</li> </ul>
<b>26 October 2016</b>
<b>JOINT MEETING WITH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Single item meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slough Children's Services Trust – 1<sup>st</sup> year overview</li> </ul>

Meeting Date
<b>8 December 2016</b>
<p><b>Constitutional Item</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New co-opted member: Slough Youth Parliament</li> </ul> <p><b>Scrutiny Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slough Joint Delivery Plan – Slough Borough Council and Slough Children’s Services Trust arrangements</li> <li>• Community Learning &amp; Skills Service</li> <li>• Responsibilities for schools – Council’s role since end of Cambridge Education contract</li> <li>• Exam results 2016</li> </ul>
<b>9 February 2017</b>
<p><b>Scrutiny Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Parenting Strategy</li> <li>• Slough Youth Offending Team</li> <li>• Exam results – verified data and analysis by ethnicity</li> <li>• SEND results – KS2 and KS4</li> </ul>
<b>15 March 2017</b>
<p><b>Scrutiny Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slough Youth Parliament</li> <li>• Slough Local Safeguarding Children’s Board</li> <li>• Update on return of education services to Slough Borough Council</li> <li>• National Funding Formula – reference from Council, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017</li> </ul> <p><b>Information Item</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School admissions</li> </ul>

<b>Meeting Date</b>
<b>19 April 2017</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ofsted: 2<sup>nd</sup> monitoring visit</li><li>• Ofsted inspections of schools (termly update)</li><li>• SEND and psychology service</li><li>• Fostering and Adoption</li><li>• Section 11 safeguarding audits</li><li>• Action Plan on exam results – verbal update</li></ul>