

## **Report to Council**

**Date of meeting: 30 September 2014**

**Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Report to Council –  
September 2014**



**Officer contact for further information:** S Tautz (Ext 4180)

**Committee Secretary:** A Hendry (Ext 4246)

---

### **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Progress report from September 2014 to the Present be noted.

### **Report:**

#### **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting 16 September 2014.**

1. At our meeting on Tuesday 16 September we monitored the progress of the Corporate Plan Key Objectives 2014-15 – Quarter 1. The Corporate Plan is the Council's strategic planning documents setting out key priorities over the four year period from 2011/12 to 2014/15. The identification of key objectives provides greater focus on how areas for improvement will be addressed giving clear overall intentions for each year and are supported by a range of actions and deliverables designed to achieve specific outcomes. Members endorsed the current situation but requested that greater emphasis should be placed on the Council's intention to maintain a 0% Council Tax increase as an objective, it was also felt that the 0% Council Tax increase should feature in the Cabinet Forward Plan.

2. We went onto consider two reports regarding the recent Local Elections on 22 May 2014 and a Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations. We extended our thanks to officers for the smooth running of the elections in May. It was advised that elections staff had dealt very well with recent legislative changes to voter registration, a 96% match has been achieved with the data from the electoral roll. However we have still experienced problems involving tellers at polling stations.

3. The Review for Polling Districts was a compulsory review of UK parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The District Council had consulted from 24 March to 30 May 2014 with local councillors, local MPs, regional members of the European Parliament, Parish and Town Councils, local County Councillors, political party agents and Returning Officers for the three Parliamentary Constituencies. Although we were satisfied with current arrangements it was brought to our attention that there were problems experienced by voters using Breach Barns polling station within Waltham Abbey North East ward in that the station was too far away for some voters. It was suggested that these voters should use the Community Centre, Saxon Way currently used by voters in this ward. We voted to recommend that Breach Barns is no longer used as a polling station for this ward.

4. We considered the Mayor of London's Consultation – London Infrastructure Delivery Plan which set out a business case for London to have fiscal devolution. Members supported extra tracking on the West Anglia lines in the Upper Lee Valley but had serious concerns about car parking facilities around train stations. We felt it important that the Mayor engage fully with cross boundary partnerships.

5. We also considered 2 PICK forms, one regarding a review of Planning Sub-

Committees procedures which will be referred to the Planning Services Scrutiny Panel for discussion and one regarding a review of the grant Aid Scheme. Members requested that a Task and Finish Panel be established to examine this issue. Officers will be asking for nominations through the Bulletin, it was advised that the panel membership should range between 5 and 7.

6. We agreed to the appointment of Councillor D Dorrell to the Constitution and Member Services Scrutiny Panel and we appointed Councillor J Knapman to the Planning Services Scrutiny Panel as a replacement for Councillor S Watson.

7. We supported amendments to the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Performance Management and Planning Services Scrutiny Panels. The Finance and Performance Scrutiny Panel will review relevant Key Performance Indicators to its service areas, and the Planning Scrutiny Panel has removed items regarding benchmarking of services and reviews of business processes and value for money as these were no longer relevant to its work. The Panel added three items from its Work Programme to its Terms of Reference as well.