

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 18 February 2016

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny Report to Council

**Contact for further information: Councillor R Morgan
(Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Committee)**

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry, ext.4246



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report for January 2016 to the present be noted.

Report:

1. At our meeting on Tuesday 5th January we considered the call-in made by 5 members on the Cabinet's decision (report C-018-2015/16) taken on 5 November 2015 regarding the release of restrictive covenants on land at Epping Forest College, Loughton.
2. The Committee heard the argument from both parties; the Councillors calling-in the decision and from the relevant Portfolio Holder, Councillor Philip. Also in attendance to give their expert opinions were Brian Page, the interim Principal of Epping Forest College; County Councillor Ray Gooding, the ECC Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning and Mark Pincombe the ECC School Organisation Officer.
3. The lead member of the call-in, Councillor Chris Pond was asked to open the discussion. He noted that the covenants were originally applied by the London County Council (LCC) on completion of the Debden Housing Estate to provide educational facilities. Later the land was transferred to the further education college. He asked that the Cabinet's decision be referred back to the Portfolio Holder for further consideration. The Portfolio Holder then set out his case, after which the committee went on to discuss the merits of the call-in. After a robust discussion it was finally resolved that the Committee confirm the original decision of the Cabinet.
4. The Committee then went on to review the Corporate Plan - Key Action Plan for 2016/17; with which we were satisfied.
5. We then considered a report on the on Chelmsford City Local Plan consultation issues. Chelmsford's current local plan runs until 2021 and the next local plan was intended to roll forward to 2036. This consultation on the issues and options was the first of three such public consultation exercises. We agreed with the officers responses to the consultation questions but wanted to change the last comment made just to say that EFDC noted "with interest" the idea in principle of a potential western bypass to Chelmsford and not that we were in full agreement with this.
6. We then went on to consider another consultation, this time on Crossrail 2. Given that 2030 was the very earliest date that the line could become operational, assessment of likely impacts on Epping Forest District were very difficult to gauge at this stage. We noted that once Crossrail 1 begins service in 2019 / 2020 the potential impacts in terms of

customer travel behaviour patterns may become clearer. By this stage the Council will also have an adopted Local Plan in place outlining the quantum and locations of growth that will need to be planned across the District up until 2033. Again, we agreed with the officer's response to the consultation document.

7. Finally, we reviewed our Work Programme and the Cabinet's Forward Plan but had no specific items that we wanted to consider.