

Report to Council

Date of meeting: 29 July 2014

Subject: Overview and Scrutiny report to Council – July 2013



Contact for further information: Cllr R Morgan

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry, ext.4246

Recommendation:

That the Overview and Scrutiny progress report from June 2014 to the present be noted.

Report

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting – 1 July 2014

1. At our first meeting for the year held on 1 July, we received a presentation from Penny Morgan, the recently appointed Principal of Epping Forest College. She was there to talk about the strategic direction of Epping Forest College, its vision for the future and its relationship with the community. We noted they provided a wide range of courses and apprenticeships for the local student population and had achieved an 87.7% success rate, which put them in the top 10% of FE Colleges. We noted that they were forging connections with the local community, for example Debden Library had now been incorporated into the College and now has its own entrance and the use of a cut price café. They were also forging closer ties with the Loughton Youth Centre establishing a whole breath of activities with the community.

2. The college was also writing a report on the future use of the college, its land and facilities which would shortly be going to their board of Governors for consideration. As this had not been considered or approved as yet Ms Morgan was not at liberty to divulge the details of this report to us, but once agreed, it would be sent out for consultation. As always, the presentation was followed by a question and answer session.

3. We then went on to consider the Cabinet's forward plan for the coming year, introduced by the Deputy Leader, Councillor Stavrou. She outlined the Cabinet's priorities over a four year period, with strategic themes reflecting those of the Community Strategy. During this item it was proposed that a Task and Finish Panel be established to review the future of the Community Grant Aid infrastructure; we agreed to do this once a PICK form has been received.

4. We then noted the outturn figures for the Key Objective figures for 2013-14 and went on to appoint the membership to the five Scrutiny Panels and the Overview

and Scrutiny Task and Finish panel looking at the future structure of the Scrutiny Panels.

5. We next considered the final version of our annual report, which we agreed, and is on this meeting's agenda.

6. Finally, we considered our work programme for the year ahead and noted that we would be asking the public to suggest items that they would like us to look at in the coming year.