



**CHESTERFIELD**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Draft

**SCRUTINY**

**ANNUAL**

**REPORT**

*2015/16*

CONTENTS:

Section		Page No
<b>1.</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs' Foreword	3
<b>2.</b>	Comments from the Chief Executive	4
<b>3.</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work and Achievements	6
<b>4.</b>	Scrutiny Outcomes and Impact on Service Delivery	12
<b>5.</b>	Scrutiny Developments During the Year	19
<b>6.</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2016/17	22
<b>7.</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Memberships 2015/16	24

## **1 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIRS' FOREWORD**

In the past year local government has come under even greater pressure as the newly elected government continued to apply its austerity measures and Chesterfield Borough Council faced its seventh year of cuts to its funding. Following our elections the Council pledged to protect the residents of Chesterfield as best it could from this unprecedented attack on local democracy and services. This means that we have to question everything we do to ensure that we achieve value for money and find innovative ways to do things. Not only to make savings but also to generate new income to protect services. Thus never before has Scrutiny been so essential to good decision making.

As can be seen from this Annual Report in committee we have ensured that we have received the information necessary to perform our role from Cabinet Members and officers on important matters such as balancing the budget, customer satisfaction and the impact of welfare and housing reform on the Borough's residents.

Scrutiny Project Groups have also played an important role. For instance, the Scrutiny Project Group on Leisure, Sport & Culture Activities focused on encouraging more people to improve their health and wellbeing by taking part in physical activities whatever their age or background. In addition to this the group was praised for the way in which its involvement at the planning and construction stage led to improvements to the delivery of new Queen's Park Sports Centre; notably to disability access.

In addition, recommendations made by the Scrutiny Project Group regarding Fees and Charges were reported to Cabinet in January and by February one in particular made a contribution to balancing the Council's budget for 2016/17.

Despite having a busy work programme we have also continued to review the way that Scrutiny operates. The Council needs to transform the way in which it works in order to do its best for Chesterfield. It therefore follows that Scrutiny must also transform itself. Consequently we are piloting a new approach to developing our work programme for the coming year 2016/17. During the 8 week period prior to the end of the 2015/16 Council year a series of events took place which brought together Executive, Scrutiny and back bench councillors with the Council's senior managers to share ideas about the Council's priorities and the risks faced in the short to medium term. This resulted in a long list of potential topics for the work programme which were then subject to further analysis by scrutiny members and their back bench colleagues. At all stages feedback from the public was taken into account. We believe that this approach will further strengthen Scrutiny's place in the Council's approach to change, service improvement and policy making.

Finally, we thank all our colleagues across the Council, Executive Members, Scrutiny Members, other Council members and officers for the contribution they have made to Scrutiny over the past year and we look forward to working with you on our new programme in the year ahead.

Councillor Tricia Gilby

Councillor Andy Slack

## **2 COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

(To be included)

### 3 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The council's scrutiny structure currently comprises 3 Overview and Scrutiny Committees which are the **Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum**, the **Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee** and the **Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee**.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) may undertake scrutiny work as a committee, or appoint Scrutiny Project Groups (informal working groups) to undertake specific task and finish projects before reporting back to the parent Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Work undertaken by our Council's OSCs during the municipal year 2015/16 is detailed below.

#### **Pre-Decision Scrutiny and the Forward Plan**

A standing item on each Scrutiny Committee agenda is the Council's Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is a document which by law must be public and contain details of the 'key executive decisions' the Cabinet and Cabinet Members will make over each forthcoming 28 day period. The Plan must also contain reference to those key decisions which are to be made in private.

This Council's policy approach is to provide a Forward Plan containing key decision details four months in advance (where that is possible) and to also include 'important non-key' decisions, ie, which may include non-executive decisions.

The Forward Plan should help provide our OSCs with the opportunity to undertake 'pre-decision scrutiny' before a decision is made, and to make any recommendations to influence and add value to a decision.

The Council's policy approach is also to provide time and opportunity for OSCs to appoint Scrutiny Project Groups to inform policy and service developments at the very early stages of planned work, often a long time before decision items are entered into the Forward Plan.

During the year the following Cabinet Members (and/or their Assistant Cabinet Members as necessary) have attended scrutiny committees to present pre-cabinet and other reports, policies, strategies and plans, and to answer scrutiny members' questions :

Leader of the Council / Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Councillor John Burrows  
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Terry Gilby  
Cabinet Member for Governance, Councillor Sharon Blank.  
Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Chris Ludlow  
Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Tom Murphy  
Cabinet Member for Town Centre and Visitor Economy, Councillor Amanda Serjeant  
Cabinet Member for Business Transformation, Councillor Ken Huckle.

Throughout 2015/16 OSCs undertook both pre-decision and post-decision scrutiny, receiving reports and influencing decisions on the following policies, strategies, plans and services :

- Communications Strategy (internal and external)
- New Performance Management Framework
- ICT Strategy and Action Plan
- Procurement Service
- New Council Plan
- Great Place Great Service Transformation Programme
- Member Development Programme for Overview and Scrutiny
- Corporate Health and Safety Improvement Programme
- Outside Market Reconfiguration
- New Chesterfield Health and Wellbeing Group
- Corporate Services Public Private Partnership Performance
- Corporate Review of Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements
- Workforce Strategy
- Impact of Government Budget on Chesterfield Housing Service
- Council Budget Monitoring and Medium Term Financial Forecast
- Public Space Protection Orders
- Footpaths and Pavements Maintenance

### **Budget and Performance Scrutiny**

Our OSCs undertake budget and performance scrutiny receiving and scrutinising budget management reports and corporate performance reports routinely. Key progress and performance reports on service improvement and action plans are also received. Throughout the year, the Council Leader, Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members and responsible officers are challenged on the budget, progress and performance for their service areas, and on how they continue to contribute to priorities for the Chesterfield community.

In particular during the 2015/16 period OSCs have :

- Received reports and questioned the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader and the Chief Finance Officer about ongoing budget proposals and the full draft budget for 2016/17.
- Scrutinised overall Corporate Performance against agreed priorities in the adopted new Council Plan.
- Monitored and challenged progress in implementing the Great Place, Great Service Council-wide Transformation Programme, including new plans to refresh the programme.
- Considered progress in implementing the Corporate Health and Safety Improvement Programme.
- Monitored and challenged progress in delivering the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership Plan (see further information below).

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee Power of 'Call-in'**

Scrutiny legislation allows for an OSC to investigate, make reports and recommendations on Cabinet decisions that have been agreed but not yet put into action. Legislation allows for action on these decisions to be suspended pending such a Scrutiny inquiry.

This process is referred to as scrutiny 'Call-in'. Following any scrutiny call-in inquiry, the Scrutiny Committee (ie the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum) may request Cabinet reconsider its decision on the basis of the further evidence gathered.

During the 2015/16 year no 'call-ins' were made.

## **Health Scrutiny – Holywell Medical Practice**

In July 2015 the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee (CCOSC) appointed Councillor Tricia Gilby as reporter to the committee on a matter being looked at by the Derbyshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (DCC HOSC).

The matter related to the possible closure of a number of GP practices in Chesterfield due to the imminent winding down of the Holywell Medical Group. Councillor Gilby attended a special meeting of the DCC HOSC to provide reports back to Chesterfield's CCOSC on more detailed plans and proposals going forward, and regarding the impact on people in those Chesterfield communities affected. DCC HOSC welcomed the direct and expedient reporting link with Chesterfield's Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding a very important and fast advancing health issue affecting Chesterfield.

The latest report received confirmed that a temporary contract had been agreed with Royal Primary Care to ensure immediate continuity of GP service delivery in the areas affected, but that there were also proposals to reduce the existing 5 GP practices to 3. CCOSC continues to receive relevant reports.

## **Scrutiny Project Group on Concessions on Fees and Charges**

A Scrutiny Project Group was appointed by the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum to look at how the council offered concessions on the fees and charges it made for services. There was no corporate policy in place guiding the application of reduced rates (subsidies) for chargeable services, ie, regarding the rate of discount or on eligibility criteria.

The Scrutiny review's objectives were to produce recommendations that would contribute to the development of a clear, corporate policy on setting concessions that:

- ensured equality of access to services for all residents and visitors;
- did not harm the financial position of the Council;
- ensured services used a consistent approach to setting concessions on fees and charges; and

- reflects the changes to benefits happening with the introduction of Universal Credit.

The review had direct input from local residents through consultation with Community Assembly members and their input is directly reflected in the project group's recommendations. The project group noted the benefit of involving residents and saw this as best practice for scrutiny reviews.

The Scrutiny Committee considered the Project Group's report on 8 December, 2015 and approved the following recommendations:

1. That concessions made on fees and charges should be used as part of a dynamic and agile pricing approach for services, where the overall objective is that total costs are covered.
2. That the concession on bulky waste and pest control services be reduced from 50% to 20%.
3. That the cost of providing concessions along with the provision of less popular or costly services should be supported by higher demand and popular services, along with revenue generated from services paid for at the full rate.
4. That Leisure Services and Theatres should continue to have the freedom to vary the rate of concessions offered to manage demand. The project group notes with approval the approach taken by these services to offering concessions and their focus on the overall cost of providing all services.
5. That services should establish the unit cost of providing a service before setting a price. The costing of services should include all possible applicable costs, both fixed and variable involved in delivering a service such as buildings, staff, materials and IT.
6. That where appropriate, services should only advertise that concessions are available rather than listing all concessionary categories at the point of a service being enquired about. Also, that those services should only grant concessions after entitlement of eligibility has been confirmed.
7. That the concessionary categories for all services should be updated to include the categories of:
  - I. Universal credit, with no earned income
  - II. Universal Credit with a housing element included

to reflect the changes to benefit delivery created by the introduction of Universal Credit



8. That the Sports and Leisure Manager should review the published list of categories giving entitlement to concessionary rates so that the list is shorter, clearer and easier to understand by service users.
9. That concessions should not be offered on the basis of being aged 60 or over. The project group notes that in the current climate of local government cuts, this category of concession is neither sustainable nor fair. Anyone who is financially disadvantaged who is 60 or over would still receive a concession based on one of the other concessionary categories.
10. That a member and officer working group be established to develop a corporate policy on concessions.
  - To produce a corporate policy on concessions that managers should use when setting concessionary rates for their services so that a corporate approach is taken when setting concessions
  - A corporate policy on the application of concessions would ensure greater consistency and fairness in the application of discounts, and greater transparency on the extent to which service costs are covered by the charges.
  - That a corporate policy on concessions on fees and charges includes all the recommendations made by the project group.
  - That the members of the scrutiny project group on concessions on fees and charges be included in the member and officer working group.

The report and its recommendations were considered and approved by Cabinet on 12 January, 2016 with the stipulation that before the implementation of any resolution that could have a financial implication to the Council, further investigation on the impact is carried out by officers and brought to Cabinet for consideration.

However Cabinet has approved the recommendation regarding the concessions on pest control and bulky waste being reduced to 20%.

### **Scrutiny Project Group on Leisure, Sport & Culture Activities**

The role of this Project Group evolved from the Group set up in 2013 (see last year's annual report) to look at the development of new leisure centre facilities, which had concluded that there had been robust adherence to the Council's objectives in providing a new sports and leisure facility in respect of the procurement and planning processes, the design of the facilities, the funding and the partnership arrangement with Chesterfield College.

During 2014/15 the Group submitted interim reports, including recommendations on the following issues:

- Consultation and internal communications processes for major projects
- Parks and Open Spaces strategy
- Playing Pitch strategy

- Sports Facilities strategy

all of which contributed to the Council's overarching Health and Wellbeing strategic portfolio.

All of the Group's recommendations were supported by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and accepted by Cabinet. Monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations has been undertaken during 2015/16 (see section 4 below)

At the end of the 2014/15 Council year the Group submitted an interim report, recommending:

- continuing monitoring by the Project Group of the construction, transfer to and operation of the new leisure centre facilities
- consideration by the Project Group of the development of the Community Sport and Physical Activity Strategy
- consideration by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee of the impact and effectiveness of integrated working across different service areas and teams in delivering the Playing Pitches, the Parks and Open Spaces and the Sports Facilities strategies
- an evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of integrated working across different service areas and teams more widely across the Council
- consideration of the potential for further use of ongoing, 'real time scrutiny' reviews as a method for supportive and constructive scrutiny engagement in the future

The work of the Project Group was commended by the Cabinet Member as an excellent example of how Scrutiny could positively improve the implementation of projects.

The first three recommendations were supported by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in April 2015, and in September 2015 the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum resolved that the final two recommendations be considered under future Great Place : Great Service progress reports on the development of the Operating Model and then reviewed after a further six months.

The Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum also suggested that the new Health and Wellbeing Group consider the integrated working of the Leisure and Environment service areas, and any other relevant services, in relation to the promotion of health and wellbeing.

During 2015/16 the Project Group has undertaken some preliminary work on the development of the Community Sport and Physical Activity Strategy, supporting further exploration of links with an overarching Health and Wellbeing strategy, as this is an emerging area of work under the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

It is expected that the scope for future work of this Project Group will be reviewed following consideration of items for the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2016/17.

## **Statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee**

Legislation requires that Councils appoint a Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee (CDSC) which must meet at least once a year to provide overview and scrutiny of the council area's Community Safety Partnership's work and performance.

A meeting of the committee was held 7 July 2015 and 22 March 2016 to consider performance progress against the Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership Plan for 2015/16, and the Plan refresh for 2016/17. Emerging priorities included anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and sexual violence, substance misuse (drugs and alcohol), and safeguarding for children and adults.

In addition the committee monitored progress in relation to actioning its recommendations regarding alcohol related hospital admissions (see previous reports). The committee also considered further reports and proposals relating to the decision to stop locking park gates at night and associated impacts (see last year's report for more detail). The committee is currently awaiting the outcome of a report to Cabinet reviewing the impact of this decision and possible further options regarding the way forward.

The committee also received information updates on the work of the Derbyshire Police and Crime Panel, from the Council's appointed member representative, the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

## **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel for Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover Councils**

During the 2015/16 municipal year the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Panel (JOSP) met in October 2015 and March 2016.

The Panel scrutinised performance and monitored joint services delivered between the three Councils of Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. The Procurement Service was no longer a shared service for Chesterfield, however the Panel received reports on the Internal Audit Consortium and the BCN (Building Control) Consultancy, regarding the effective and efficient operation of these shared services.

The Committee also considered potential further plans to extend these two services to include other Councils and form Derbyshire wide services. The committee supported plans to pursue a Derbyshire wide Building Control service, subsequently approved by the Joint (Executive) Board, and now under development. The consultant's options for a possible Derbyshire wide Audit Service are currently being considered.

The Joint Panel also gave some consideration, in the light of various external changes taking place such as the introduction of Combined Authorities and their Overview and Scrutiny Committees (see section 5 below), to review its own terms of reference. Following consultation with the Joint Board for a view on the executive forward programme of work, the Joint Panel decided that its role should remain relatively unchanged for the present time, and that it continues to meet as and when needed.

## **4 SCRUTINY OUTCOMES AND IMPACT ON SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **Ensuring Implementation and Monitoring Impact of Scrutiny Work and Recommendations**

Our Overview and Scrutiny Committees monitor the progress of implementation of scrutiny recommendations that are approved by decision makers, requesting regular 6 monthly or annual updates on progress. This follow up procedure is essential to ensure once recommendations are approved they are put into action, that the work of Scrutiny impacts on service delivery and the benefits of scrutiny work are received by the people of Chesterfield.

Monitoring also takes place around issues and services where our Scrutiny Committees have had a concern and undertaken some scrutiny work, but their scrutiny recommendations have not been approved. When this happens progress reports may still be requested.

During 2015/16 our Scrutiny Committees monitored progress with delivery of their scrutiny work and recommendations regarding :

- External Communications Strategy Scrutiny Review
- ICT Developments (Great Place, Great Service programme)
- Parking Policy Scrutiny Review
- Water Rates Payments Policy Scrutiny Review
- Hackney Carriage Licence Limit Policy Scrutiny Review
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy Scrutiny Review
- Sports Facilities Strategy Scrutiny Review
- Playing Pitches Strategy Scrutiny Review
- Dog Fouling Scrutiny Review
- Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

Background detail of these reports and the scrutiny recommendations can be found in the previous section of this report and/or in previous Annual Scrutiny Reports. More specific progress made this year is detailed below.

### **Scrutiny Project Group on Water Rates Payments Policy**

Last year we reported on the achievements of a scrutiny project group set up during 2013/14 to look into the council's policy on housing tenants' water rates payments and associated evictions policy. (This work had followed a previous scrutiny review which recommended policy changes approved by Cabinet in January 2012). The scrutiny work is detailed in the annual report for 2013/14. The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee has continued to monitor implementation of its recommendations.

#### *Achievements :*

All the scrutiny recommendations have now been actioned, most of them successfully implemented, and are detailed in last year's report. The Committee received further reports on the numbers of evictions and was satisfied with those levels subject to the other interventions and support to tenants which were now in place.

After further officer investigation into the payments collection process, systems and technology, it was agreed this work was no longer feasible particularly in relation to the effects of incoming Universal Credit arrangements. However the Scrutiny Committee will continue to monitor arrangements for the management of the council's collection contract with Severn Trent Water.

### **Scrutiny Project Group on Hackney Carriage Licence Capping**

In 2013 a Scrutiny Project Group was appointed by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to look into the review of the current cap on the number of Hackney Carriage licences. The Scrutiny Committee considered and approved the Project Group's report and recommendations, which are detailed in last year's annual report. The recommendations were considered by the Council's Appeals and Regulatory Committee which resolved to take account of the Project Group's report when considering and reaching its decision on future policy.

#### *Achievements :*

Some achievements are detailed in last year's report. Additionally, as an independent review of the licence limit is currently a 3 yearly requirement, the Scrutiny Committee retains the item on its monitoring programme until the next independent review is completed, as this will be the first licence limit review since the scrutiny recommendations were considered. This next hackney carriage licence limit review is due to commence autumn 2016.

### **Scrutiny Project Group on External Communications Strategy**

Last year we reported on the work of the scrutiny project group to review and inform the production of a new External Communications Strategy. The work aimed to ensure that the new strategy is customer focused but also takes into account the needs of the council as it moves forward with embracing new technology and managing a difficult budget. The Scrutiny Forum's recommendations were approved by Cabinet July 2014. Further details are already provided in last year's report.

#### *Achievements :*

Three of the four approved recommendations have been implemented. The external communications strategy and new corporate branding are now fully in place and analytics are routinely being used to monitor and guide customer service improvements for the council's website, intranet and social media channels. The 'digital first' approach to communications has now been rolled out to, and is being used by, council services. The Scrutiny Forum continues to monitor the proposed review of marketing and communication activities which is currently pending council consideration of arrangements for commercialisation opportunities.

### **Scrutiny Project Group on Parking Policy Review**

In February 2013 a Scrutiny Project Group was appointed by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to assess the quality of the current parking facilities and to provide guidance on future investment priorities.

In March 2013 Cabinet agreed that the recommendations of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee should be supported through the implementation of the Council's Medium Term Parking Strategy, and the Committee was also thanked for its valuable contribution to the development of the Council's parking policy. The scrutiny work and recommendations are detailed in the annual report for 2013/14.

*Achievements :*

In last year's report we explained that the Council's Medium Term Parking Strategy had been approved on the understanding that some car park investment would form part of the proposed Northern Gateway Scheme. Because of the economic downturn this scheme has not progressed, and those car park investment opportunities not realised. It is also now known that for technical reasons it would not be possible to introduce the pay-on-foot (barrier) car park system to all car parks.

Some improvements to car parks signage have still successfully been achieved.

The Cabinet has since considered proposals for a new car parks strategy for the next 5 years. However under the circumstances, for the technical and financial reasons provided affecting delivery of the scrutiny recommendations, the Scrutiny Committee has resolved to remove the monitoring of the recommendations from its work programme.

### **Scrutiny Project Group on Dog Fouling**

Last year a Scrutiny Project Group was appointed by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee to look into the issue of dog fouling. The review and its focus came about as an issue raised by Community Assembly members who requested dog fouling be a priority matter for scrutiny to look at.

The subsequent review into the council's approach to dog fouling had direct input from local residents through consultation with Community Assembly members. Their input was reflected in the project group's focus and its recommendations which are included in last year's report.

In March 2015 Cabinet agreed that the group's recommendations be approved and thanked scrutiny members for their work and observations.

*Achievements:*

The work of the Scrutiny Project Group has resulted in:

- An on-going review of the location of dog bins resulting in 11 dual use bins for dog mess and litter, and changes to the frequency that bins need to be emptied.
- New posters and leaflets using new, innovative art work and amended wording regarding fines which draws its focus from the group's recommendations.

- Increased coordination and communication by the Environmental Protection Team and other teams within the council, with the objective of reducing dog fouling.

The Scrutiny Committee continues to monitor the implementation of the group's recommendations as well as how the council is managing the issue of dog fouling and irresponsible dog owners across the borough.

### **Scrutiny Project Group on Parks and Open Spaces Strategy**

The Project Group's recommendations had led to the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and action plan being adopted by Full Council in February 2015.

These recommendations had referred to:

- 1 Consultation being carried out with local residents and community groups when proposals were put forward for investment in a park or open space, in conjunction with promoting awareness of the health benefits, with regard to the Council's Community Engagement Strategy and the community engagement model produced by students from University of Nottingham's masters in public health course in partnership with Derbyshire County Council's Public Health Department.
- 2 Disability access being prioritised when proposals were developed for investment in parks and open spaces.
- 3 The Play Strategy being reviewed within the next 12 months in order to rationalise the provision of equipped play areas, taking into account the age profiles of the surrounding areas.
- 4 The Council's website being used more effectively to promote parks and open spaces with maps and details of community events and activities.

#### *Achievements :*

During its monitoring of outcomes in October 2015 the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee found that these recommendations had been fully met.

Consultation had been and would continue to be undertaken for any policy changes or where physical work was proposed for a site, appropriate to the nature of the project and the resources available. A wide range of consultative methods were being used and the public health method would be considered where access to funding, internally or externally, was available.

### **Scrutiny Project Group on Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy**

The Project Group's recommendations had led to the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2015 - 2031 being approved by Council in December, 2014.

The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee had recommended that monitoring be undertaken in October 2015 to confirm the status of the strategy implementation and delivery; and also to confirm whether the strategy had started to reverse the shortfall of junior teams and interest in playing by young people, both boys and girls.

*Achievements:*

In October 2015 it was confirmed that the strategy was now referred to in determining planning applications and that it would be used in preparing the review of the Local Plan. There were still some areas of detail where Planning would need to work on how the strategies were interpreted on individual sites and cases, but this situation was expected at this stage, given the range of issues covered. Links to the strategy had also been added to the documents from the Local Plan Evidence Base page. The Parks team had been consulted and had contributed to the strategy action plan and this was being used to inform current and future pitch planning and letting in the borough.

Derbyshire Football Association (FA) was a consultee on the strategy and had confirmed their support for future actions. The FA were updating their registration and team monitoring systems and had advised that at that time they were unable to report on any impact until both the system and current registrations were complete. A time line had not been confirmed. Locally junior teams remained popular and some work was being done to formalise needs in some areas regarding developing community coaching matters.

The Chesterfield Football forum endorsed the strategy and were working with CBC on delivering the action plan, the new Active Chesterfield Sport Forum had been alerted to the strategy and implications for sports included. Tennis facilities at the Annexe had been upgraded. The strategy was directly linked to the new Parks strategy to ensure efficiencies and future development opportunities were maximised.

Further monitoring was planned by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in July 2016 when it was anticipated there would be more data available to assess the initial impact of the strategy.

### **Scrutiny Project Group on Sports Facilities Strategy**

The Project Group's recommendations had led to the Sports Facilities Strategy 2015 - 2028 being adopted by Full Council in February, 2015.

The Project Group had recommended reference being included in the Strategy to:

- 1 Priorities regarding facilities being community focused and aiming for positive health impacts, in particular for those with mental health issues and the elderly at risk of being isolated; and
- 2 Accessibility – physical access to comply with Sport England access standards and encouraging participation through community based delivery.



### *Achievements:*

During its monitoring of outcomes in October 2015 the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee found that these recommendations had been fully met.

The strategy confirmed the need for additional swimming pool and sports hall space in the borough and was pivotal in the Council demonstrating needs and evidence for the £2m Sport England investment in the new Queens Park Sports Centre.

It was confirmed that the strategy was now referred to in determining planning applications and that it would be used in preparing the review of the Local Plan. Links to the strategy had also been added to the documents from the Local Plan Evidence Base page as appropriate. Local sports club forums had been advised of the strategy as a reference document.

The School Sport Partnership and College were engaged in developing usage at education sites to improve community access to sport and physical activity opportunities and health improvement outcomes.

Disability and physical access features in respect of the design of the new Queen's Park Sports Centre included:

- Compliant approach routes across the site
- Tactile paving to crossing points
- Accessible parking
- Level access entrance
- Manifestations to entrance glazing
- Hearing induction loops
- Accessible / compliant reception desk and server
- Accessible seating to café area
- Swing gate access / egress
- Tactile / part m compliant signage
- Compliant circulation routes / opening widths
- 2.no lifts and appropriate controls
- Accessible changing rooms / spaces & associated showers and lockers
- Appropriate material / colour contrasts in floor and wall finishes
- 600mm bench seating to group change areas
- Accessible spectating areas for pool hall
- Inclusive sports hall court markings
- Refuge areas to fire escape routes
- Platform lift to main swimming pool and graduated steps
- Moveable floor to small swimming pool and hoist access
- TV screens in main reception and other areas with customer information
- Differential tile finishes at poolside edge
- Finger grip tile to pool edging.
- Appropriate lighting and temperature controls
- Shower and tap control fittings
- All necessary hand rails and access support.
- Minimum of 50% of fitness equipment to be “inclusive fitness initiative” design

## **5 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE YEAR**

Developments in overview and scrutiny are ongoing and this is a standing item on the agenda for each meeting of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum (OPSF). Developments fall into two main areas:

- i) Developments in the inside and outside of the Council having an impact on delivery of the overview and scrutiny function;
- ii) The development of people involved with delivering the function, and more specifically those elected members of our Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSC).

The information below provides details of the various developments that have taken place during 2015/16.

### **Evaluation & Review of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Function**

Last year we reported that a full, corporate review of overview and scrutiny operation was underway. The review has been completed and the findings supported by the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum, and approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Review Corporate Steering Group.

The main findings included a need for :

- More clarity, involvement and transparency in the Work Programming process.
- Organisation wide learning and development plans for the overview and scrutiny role.

Findings also acknowledged a need to better promote overview and scrutiny via use of the new internet and intranet, and to consider use of social media to engage and involve external stakeholders.

Also reported was a need to review the staffing service to strengthen resilience to respond to emerging issues.

The associated improvement actions are in the process of being developed and delivered, some of which are detailed separately in this section.

### **Organisational Learning and Development for Overview and Scrutiny**

The Council agrees that the development and growth of individuals to enable them to undertake their roles effectively is essential. As part of the corporate review mentioned above, development plans for overview and scrutiny have now been adopted for both members and employees. These are in the process of being delivered.

During 2015/16 learning and development sessions were delivered on :

- Member Induction and Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny
- Chairing Skills for Scrutiny Committee Chairs

- Scrutiny Project Groups
- Council Budget Setting and Monitoring
- Chairing Skills for Scrutiny Project Groups

Learning ‘on-the-job’ and ‘action-learning’ is also valuable and takes place during routine business and service delivery. In this way the following business also enabled the building of knowledge and experience :

- Report to OPSF on the new Performance Management Framework
- Two OSC Work Programming ‘Away Day’ Sessions
- Briefing on the process of Reporting Scrutiny Project Group work to Cabinet

Since completion of the corporate review, two members of the OPSF have also been appointed to the Council’s corporate Member Development Working Group.

To strengthen communications and information sharing, the two Scrutiny Committee Chairs are also invited to the informal joint Cabinet Member and Corporate Management Team ‘away days’.

## **Overview and Scrutiny Policy, Practice and Guidance**

In line with the new overview and scrutiny arrangements adopted, we continue to develop our local policy approach, processes, and shared learning, through the introduction and further development of guidance and information documents, as needed. We continue to promote and develop a presence on both the new internet and intranet on an ongoing basis.

## **Sheffield City Region Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Last year we reported on the creation of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority (SCRCA). This new statutory body has strategic powers to make decisions on transport, economic development and regeneration matters within the Combined Authority area. The Combined Authority area covers 9 Councils in south Yorkshire and north Derbyshire, and Chesterfield Borough Council is in the process of becoming a full constituent member of the Combined Authority.

As part of the creation of the Combined Authority came legislation which requires establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) to increase transparency and accountability of the work and decisions of the Combined Authority. Chesterfield Borough Council’s Scrutiny Chair is currently appointed to the SCRCA OSC which has been meeting since March 2015.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny (a national charity which supports development of the scrutiny role) has been appointed to assist with the development of governance and scrutiny arrangements for the SCRCA and its OSC. This work is still in its early stages and we will provide a further update on these outcomes in next year’s report.

## **Overview and Scrutiny of Proposed North Midlands Combined Authority**

Last year we reported that Councils across Derbyshire were also proposing to form a Combined Authority. An application for a Derbyshire Combined Authority was originally submitted to Government in April 2014 for consideration. Since that time applications have been replaced to propose one Combined Authority for both Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (ie, the North Midlands Combined Authority). As for the SCRCA, approved status would give the North Midlands Combined Authority (NMCA) similar strategic powers to make decisions on transport, economic development, regeneration and possibly other public service matters, within the Combined Authority area. The merits of the current proposal are still being considered by Government. Chesterfield Borough Council agreed at its recent Council meeting to become a non-constituent member of the NMCA, if and when created.

Again to support and ensure good governance the creation of a NMCA would also require the body to establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Further details regarding these developments will be included in next year's report.

## **East Midlands Councils' Regional Scrutiny Network**

The East Midlands Councils' Regional Scrutiny Network is a forum for learning, sharing, promoting, supporting and developing the scrutiny function across the region. The Council plays a proactive role in supporting and contributing to the work of the Network which meets on a quarterly basis.

The Overview and Scrutiny function is a continually evolving and growing role, requiring ongoing learning and development. Much of the developments this year are detailed above.

The Council will undertake regular reviews of its overview and scrutiny function to ensure its ongoing evaluation and effectiveness.

## 6 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

The three Scrutiny Committees review their Work Programme business at each of their meetings every two months. Programmes of work would normally include :

- Items agreed by the Scrutiny Committees for consideration including Scrutiny Project Group work.
- Ongoing priorities such as budget, performance and corporate priority (Council Plan) scrutiny.
- Scrutiny of the Council's Forward Plan of key decisions.
- The monitoring of implementation of approved scrutiny recommendations.
- The monitoring of implementation of corporate and service improvement plans.
- Other unplanned business items that the Committees will decide to deal with as and when they arise such as 'call-in' and petitions.

Scrutiny aims for its work to have both a strategic and community focus, and to involve all stakeholders where possible - Councillors, officers, public and partners can all influence contents of the Scrutiny Work Programme.

Work Programme business (*as at 28 April 2016*) is below. (Note further business will be detailed once the work programme has received final approval).

### Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

	<p><i>Items for Monitoring :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- External Communications Strategy</li><li>- ICT Developments (Great Place, Great Service)</li><li>- Fees and Charges Concessions</li></ul>
--	--

### Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee

	<p><i>Items for Monitoring :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Crime and Disorder Committee (Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions / Locking of Park Gates)</li><li>- New Leisure Facilities (Engagement)</li></ul>
--	---

## Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

	<p><i>Items for Monitoring :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Leisure Facilities Strategy</li><li>Playing Pitches Strategy</li><li>Hackney Carriage Licence Limit</li><li>Water Rates Payment Policy</li><li>Dog Fouling</li></ul>
--	---

## 7 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2015/16

<b>Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum :</b>	
Councillors	
<b>Tricia Gilby – Co Chair</b> <b>Andy Slack – Co Chair</b> Jeannie Barr ( <i>also SPG Lead Member for Concessions on Fees and Charges</i> ) Howard Borrell Ian Callan Ray Catt Vickey-Anne Diouf	Lisa-Marie Derbyshire Barry Dyke Keith Miles Donald Parsons Suzie Perkins Kate Sarvent Gordon Simmons
<b>Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee</b>	
Councillors	
<b>Andy Slack – Chair</b> <b>Howard Borrell – Vice Chair</b> Jeannie Barr Barry Dyke	Keith Miles Donald Parsons Kate Sarvent Gordon Simmons
<b>Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee</b>	
Councillors	
<b>Tricia Gilby – Chair</b> ( <i>Also Lead Member for Leisure, Sport and Culture Activities SPG</i> ) <b>Suzie Perkins – Vice Chair</b> Ian Callan Ray Catt	Lisa-Marie Derbyshire Vickey-Anne Diouf Barry Dyke Kate Sarvent

For further information contact :

Anita Cunningham  
 Policy and Scrutiny Officer  
 Tel: 01246 345273  
[anita.cunningham@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:anita.cunningham@chesterfield.gov.uk);  
[scrutiny@chesterfield.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@chesterfield.gov.uk);

or visit the Council's website at <http://www.chesterfield.gov.uk>