

Date of issue: Monday, 8 June 2020

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b> (Councillors Dhaliwal (Chair), Sarfraz, Basra, Gahir, Hulme, Matloob, D Parmar, S Parmar and R Sandhu)
<b>DATE AND TIME:</b>	THURSDAY, 11TH JUNE, 2020 AT 6.30 PM
<b>VENUE:</b>	VIRTUAL MEETING
<b>DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER:</b> (for all enquiries)	JANINE JENKINSON 07511 048 406

### SUPPLEMENTARY PAPERS

The following papers have been added to the agenda for the above meeting:-

Item 6 was not available for publication with the rest of the agenda.

#### PART 1

<u>AGENDA ITEM</u>	<u>REPORT TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>	<u>WARD</u>
6.	Annual Scrutiny Report 2019/20	1 - 28	All

This page is intentionally left blank

**SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee

**DATE:** 11 June 2020

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Dean Tyler, Service Lead, Strategy and Performance  
(For all Enquiries) (01753) 875847

**WARDS:** All

**PART I**  
**FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

**DRAFT ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2019-20****1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the Annual Scrutiny Report which will be submitted to Council.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Committee is requested to endorse the report, subject to any amendments, before it is presented to council.

**3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Five Year Plan**

3.1 The council's decision-making and the effective scrutiny of it underpins the delivery of all the Joint Slough Wellbeing Strategy priorities. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, alongside the three scrutiny panels combine to meet the local authority's statutory requirement to provide public transparency and accountability, ensuring the best outcomes for the residents of Slough.

3.2 The work of scrutiny also reflects the priorities of the Five Year plan, as follows:

- Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
- Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs
- Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay
- Our residents will live in good quality homes.
- Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents.

3.3 Overview and Scrutiny is a process by which decision-makers are accountable to local people, via their elected representatives for improving outcomes relating to all priorities for the borough and its residents. Scrutiny seeks to influence those who make decisions by considering the major issues affecting the borough and making recommendations about how services can be improved.

#### 4. **Other Implications**

##### (a) Financial

The work of the scrutiny function is included within existing SBC budgets.

##### (b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
Endorse that the report be presented to council.	The information and narrative is not agreed by the scrutiny committees	The report has been submitted to chairs and vice chairs of the committees for comment.

##### (c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act implications. The work of scrutiny functions in local authorities is outlined in the Local Government Act 2000.

##### (d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There are no Equality Impact Assessments required as a result of this report.

#### 5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 At the last meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for each municipal year the committee receives the draft Annual Scrutiny Report. This has been delayed this year as a result of the cancellation of a number of council meetings following the Covid-19 outbreak.
- 5.2 Annual reports are an opportunity to review the scrutiny work programme for the past year and assess the impact scrutiny has had on influencing policy. Looking at an annual report can help us to understand the nature of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny and to assess its effectiveness. It also gives an opportunity to reflect on any lessons learned during the year to help guide future work.
- 5.3 The production of an annual report is a constitutional requirement and in addition the committee “must report annually to the full council on future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.” The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is provided with a draft of the Annual Scrutiny Report which highlights some key achievements from the year where scrutiny has made a difference.
- 5.4 There is scope to build on and develop different methods of scrutiny next year; particular attention needs to be given on using overarching policy documents such as the Five Year Plan and how they should shape the work of scrutiny. In addition, members may wish to consider increasing the variety of methods used by scrutiny (e.g. Task and Finish Groups, co-option of members). We will be undertaking some research into scrutiny best practice for consideration at a future date.

6. **Conclusion**

- 6.1 The Local Authority, through its Overview and Scrutiny Function, has an influential, as well as statutory, role in scrutinising the activities and performance of the Cabinet and External Bodies (e.g. the Clinical Commissioning Group). The Annual Scrutiny Report provides an opportunity to communicate the work the committee and its panels have undertaken, challenges faced and the improvements made as a result of scrutiny.

6. **Appendix Attached**

A Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2019/20

7. **Background Papers**

Local Government Act 2000 (Section 21)

This page is intentionally left blank

# Draft Annual Scrutiny Report 2019–2020



## **Contents**

Foreword	3
Introduction	4
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	6
Health Scrutiny Panel	9
Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel	11
Education and Community Services Scrutiny Panel	13
Looking Forward	16
Appendix A – Scrutiny Work Programmes 2019/20	17



## **Foreword**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the annual scrutiny report for 2019-20. This report highlights the key areas of work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its three standing scrutiny panels (the Health Scrutiny Panel, Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel and the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel).

In 2019-20, the committee and panels have undertaken vital work. In particular they paid special attention to Slough Borough Council's progress achieving its Five Year plan outcomes. The Five Year plan outcomes are:

- Outcome 1: Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful
- Outcome 2: Our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs
- Outcome 3: Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay
- Outcome 4: Our residents will live in good quality homes
- Outcome 5: Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents

While every piece of work delivered by the council has these outcomes in mind, the committee and panels have played a role by scrutinising and challenging council officers on their delivery for the Five Year plan outcomes.

Scrutiny's workplan - including the work of the food poverty task and finish group - has been impacted by Covid-19 and our committee and panels have not met since the middle of March. The Council has now introduced virtual meetings and future meetings will be held in this manner.

In February 2020 the Local Government Association were invited to Slough Borough Council to undertake a Governance Peer Challenge. The scope including decision making and scrutiny, in particular –

- Does the council have appropriate controls, frameworks and support in place to support members and officers to make decisions in an accountable and transparent way?
- Does Scrutiny provide effective challenge to the Cabinet, which improves policy and decision making?
- How is the council accountable for the decisions it takes, and how it does report on this?

We look forward to receiving the final report and using its recommendations to inform our work.

I would like to thank my own Vice Chair as well as the chairs and vice chairs of the panels for their support and leadership throughout the year. 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 Arvind Dhaliwal**  
**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 2019–20.

### **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
- 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 support from the policy and insight team; 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.

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### Membership:

Councillor Dhaliwal (Chair)  
Councillor Basra  
Councillor Hulme  
Councillor Dilbagh Parmar  
Councillor Rajinder Sandhu

Councillor Sarfraz (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Gahir  
Councillor Matloob  
Councillor Satpal Parmar

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertakes 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 and Social care.
- Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Panel – scrutinising the cabinet portfolio for Children and Education
- Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel – scrutinising the Cabinet portfolios for Housing, Environment and Leisure and Planning and Transport.

## **Specific focuses of work**

### Heathrow expansion

In September, the committee welcomed representatives from Heathrow Airport to a session to scrutinise the potential implications of the expansion of the airport on Slough. Members were provided with a presentation focusing on the economic development framework, surface access proposals and the measures to manage aircraft noise.

Heathrow had undertaken a pledge not to increase airport related traffic. To achieve this it was proposed to encourage a modal shift to public transport of at least 50% by 2030 for passengers and a reduction of employee car trips by 25% by 2030. Concerns were raised regarding the proposed road network designs and travel plans, in particular the lack of direct access for buses from Langley and Slough, the reliability and affordability of public transport between Slough and the airport, and the lack of cycle lanes.

Members also raised questions around the impact of construction freight vehicles, and traffic more generally, on residents and the environment, and sought reassurance this would be mitigated.

The committee also sought assurance on the steps being taken to mitigate the effects of the construction on air quality - particularly in Colnbrook and Poyle - and sought to establish how the Community Fund could be used to bring additional benefits to local residents, rather than just mitigating the direct impacts of the expansion.

### Community safety

In November, the committee held a session focussing on crime and community safety, welcoming Matthew Barber, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner and John Campbell, the Chief Constable.

Members expressed concerns around the use of stop and search powers and Section 60 powers, which allow a police officer to stop and search a person without 'reasonable suspicion'. The committee sought assurance that people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities would not be unfairly targeted. The Chief Constable explained that whilst undertaking a stop and search, police officers were mindful of maintaining the dignity of the person being searched, and that there had been very few complaints in the Thame Valley area. He explained that Section 60 powers were used to search people in a defined area, during a specific time period, when it was believed, with good reason, that serious violence would occur and it was necessary to use the powers to prevent such violence.

Members also raised concerns regarding the potential impact of funding cuts and the number of front line police officers, in light of increased crime rates in the borough - particularly violent crime, sexual offences and weapon offences.

The committee also discussed the preventative measures being taken, including partnership working, to reduce the risk of crime occurring.

### Equality and inclusivity

At the request of Full Council, the committee received a report on the range and type of equality and inclusivity events available in Slough, with a particular focus on members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) community.

The committee discussed the current provision of events by the council, plans in development to hold a Slough Pride event and the impact of the Government's new regulations, which made it compulsory for all primary aged pupils to be taught about relationships and all secondary aged pupils to be taught relationships and sex education.

Members also discussed the importance of promoting the inclusion of disabled people, and the council's role as an employer in promoting inclusion.

### Planning

In March, the committee received a report on planning performance, resourcing, and the Customer Insight and Improvement Programme.

Members scrutinised SBC's performance against the Government's standards for Local Planning Authorities over a two-year rolling period. SBC's performance for the speed of decision-making exceeded the national average. 97.1% of Slough's major applications were decided within 13 weeks, compared to the national average of 88.2% of applications. 85.3% of Slough's applications were decided within the statutory timescale compared to the national average of 88.8% of applications; however this was above the 70% target set by Government.

The committee raised concerns regarding the high level of permanent vacancies in the Planning department and the reliance on agency staff, and sought to establish what further action might be taken to recruit and retain staff, particularly women.

The committee also considered work currently underway to improve the Planning department's digital offer to improve the application process for customers. Planning systems were being redesigned to meet customer need, with the focus being improving information and establishing an online application tracking facility.

### Revenue Budget and Capital monitoring

Throughout the year the committee received quarterly Revenue Budget and Capital monitoring reports.

In January, there was also an extended session for the committee to scrutinise the council's Capital Management Strategy 2020-24. Treasury Management Strategy for 2020-21 and Revenue Budget for 2020-21. Key themes discussed by the committee included:

- The increasing need for housing in the borough;
- The use of Section 106 receipts;
- The cemetery expansion scheme;
- The Hubs development and Youth Hub schemes;
- The purchasing of commercial properties;
- The management of the council's debt; and
- Arrangements with the council's leisure providers 'Everyone Active'.

### Outstanding areas to be considered

Before the interruption of its work programme, the committee had planned sessions to scrutinise the work of the Serious Violence Task Force, and to scrutinise in more detail Heathrow Airport's Draft Economic Development Vision and Strategy.

## **Health Scrutiny Panel**

### Membership

Councillor Sandhu (Chair)  
Councillor Ali  
Councillor Gahir  
Councillor Mohammad  
Councillor Rasib

Councillor Smith (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Begum  
Councillor Holledge  
Councillor Qaseem  
Colin Pill (Healthwatch Slough)

### **About the Health Scrutiny Panel**

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

The Health Scrutiny Panel works primarily to consider Outcome Two - 'our people will be healthier and manage their own care needs' - of Slough Borough Councils five priority outcomes. The panel scrutinises the work done by the council and its partners to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Slough, and to support those who need additional health or social care.

This outcome contains four main priority areas. These are to:

- Enhance our strategic approach to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents through improved prevention and early intervention.
- Make best use of our new leisure facilities and get more people – more active – more often.
- Improve mental wellbeing and reduce loneliness and isolation – more people – more connected – and happy.
- Reduce the need for long term social care through improved early help and effective partnership.

The Health Scrutiny Panel engages with a range of projects, initiatives and areas of work that all strive to meet these priorities. Some of the work the panel has been involved in over the last year is outlined below.

### **Specific focuses of work**

#### Disability Task and Finish Group

In the previous municipal year, a Task and Finish Group was established by the panel to consider a number of disability issues. The group drafted a set of recommendations, grouped around the themes of information and awareness, transport, leisure, buildings and planning, parking, highways and footpaths, and GP surgery accessibility. Work to finalise these recommendations continued into the 2019-2020 municipal year. The recommendations were submitted to cabinet in July 2019, and were adopted as part of council policy. Over the following months, the panel received regular updates from council officers on the implementation of these recommendations. Through this work, Slough Borough Council is progressing towards its aim of making Slough a Disability Friendly Town.

## Healthcare

Throughout the 2019/20 municipal year, the panel engaged in several pieces of work to scrutinise healthcare provision in Slough. The panel worked closely with the Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System on several projects, including the creation of the new Frimley Integrated Care System Long Term Strategy.

Frimley wanted this strategy to be developed through engagement with the local community, and to reflect local needs, issues and priorities. As such, Frimley engaged with the panel to receive input on their proposed engagement methods, and later, provided an update on the success of this public engagement process.

In addition to this work, the panel also scrutinised the decision of Frimley NHS Foundation Trust to transfer non-clinical staff to a wholly owned subsidiary company, and the Frimley Health and Care System Winter Planning for the winter of 2019/20.

## Public Health

The Health Scrutiny Panel considered several projects led by the Slough Public Health Team over the 2019/20 year.

Early in the year, the panel considered the draft Local Action Plan for Immunisations. They were satisfied that the proposed Local Action Plan was suitably tailored to Slough, and agreed that Councillor Ali would act as the 'Panel Champion for Immunisations' to raise community awareness of the need for immunisations.

Later in the year, they were updated on the progress of screening and immunisation programmes in the borough, and discussed some of the specific cultural and religious factors that impact the uptake of vaccinations in Slough.

The panel also received an update from the Public Health Team on a commissioned piece of research into Health Beliefs and Physical Activity, and received the annual report from the Director of Public Health on 'Berkshire - A Good Place to Work'.

## Adult Social Care

The panel also scrutinises the work of Slough Borough Council's Adult Social Care Services.

The panel received an update on the Adult Social Care Strategy, and the key achievements in delivering this strategy. The panel heard that over the last year, there has been an increase in numbers of people managing their own care and support needs through a direct payment, continued good performance in supporting people to remain living independently at home, and the continued success of Slough's Mental Health Services. The success in meeting these measures was noted and congratulated by the panel, and the panel discussed with officers what other preventative measures, such as increased exercise, could be encouraged in the residents of Slough.

## Outstanding areas to be considered

Several key reports due to be considered by the panel in these meetings were postponed, including the Adult Social Care budget, the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, and a report on Air Quality and Health in Slough. If possible, these items are expected to be considered during the next municipal year.



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

### **Membership:**

Councillor Plenty (Chair)  
Councillor Minhas  
Councillor Gahir  
Councillor M Holledge  
Councillor Matloob

Councillor Wright (Vice Chair)  
Councillor S Parmar  
Councillor Hulme  
Councillor Ajaib

### **About the Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel**

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 Corporate Finance and Housing, Planning and Transport, and Environment and Leisure.

The Panel is also responsible for scrutinising Outcome Four of the Five Year Plan “Our residents will have access to good quality homes”.

Our long term priorities are to:

- Maintain our council housing to a high standard.
- Deliver new affordable homes for our residents.
- Reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation.
- Drive up standards in the private rented sector.

The panel was provided progress in the council’s actions in delivering Outcome 4 of the Five Year Plan. The panel discussed the Outcome 4 Action Plan that drew actions from the housing strategy.

### **Specific focuses of work**

#### **Housing**

The Council’s Housing Service remained the panel’s main focus throughout the year. The panel scrutinised the following key issues related to Housing:

- The work of the Slough Home Improvement Agency
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) investment programmes
- The Council’s Asset Management Strategy
- Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation
- The Key worker scheme
- The Council’s repairs, maintenance and investment (RMI) partnership with Osborne.

In addition, the panel scrutinised the Council’s new Housing Strategy and commented on its different elements, including the delivery of affordable housing, housing allocation, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), and preventing homelessness.

#### **Food Poverty Task and Finish Group**

In October 2019, members of the panel raised concern at the increasing reliance on foodbanks and similar provision in Slough. In order to properly understand this problem, the Panel decided to set up a Task and Finish Group to investigate food poverty in the Borough and recommend actions to reduce it.

Throughout January and February 2020, the Task and Finish Group assessed data from Slough Food Bank and held a number of formal meetings with various stakeholders to gather and evaluate evidence.

These included representatives from Slough Food bank, Shelter, Slough primary and secondary schools, the DWP and a number of Slough Food Bank users. They also gathered evidence from SBC Homelessness Outreach, Debt Management and Welfare Provision teams.

The Task and Finish Group was due to present its interim report to the panel's meeting in April when the COVID-19 lockdown was imposed and further investigations were halted until restrictions ease.

#### Western Rail Link to Heathrow

The panel welcomed a representative from Network Rail for a detailed discussion the rationale behind Network Rail's routing choice for the Great Western Main Line and Western Rail Link to Heathrow at Langley as well as the transport modelling of the proposed closure of Hollow Hill Lane.

Members raised concern regarding the assessment of Langley High Street/ Parlaut Road as being under capacity and refuted Network Rail's assessment, pointing out that the volume of traffic in this location during peak times was currently over capacity and often grid locked during peak times. They invited a Network Rail representative to attend a site visit to observe the traffic flow during peak times and requested that measures should be taken to mitigate any detrimental impact resulting from the closure of Harrow Hill Lane.

#### Airbnb Licensing

The panel discussed the need to effectively control short term lets and the resulting negative impact on the availability of family accommodation. They referred the matter to the Cabinet requesting that sufficient resources be allocated to allow planning enforcement to be considered for all short term lettings properties including those advertised by agents such as Airbnb that require planning permission for change of use.

#### Parking Schemes

The panel scrutinised a report on parking schemes in Slough and the parking scheme forward plan. It was agreed that members will be provided with a quarterly report on the forward plan relevant to their respective wards, to assist them communication with residents.

A report requesting that sufficient staff resource be allocated to the Parking Service Team, to enable officers to complete outstanding works as expediently as possible, was planned to be submitted to the Cabinet by early April, but this was put on hold due to the lockdown.

#### Outstanding areas to be considered

Several key reports due to be considered by the panel in these meetings were postponed, including a discussion on the performance of the RMI contract, a report on the hubs strategy, and further items on housing, homelessness and rough sleeping.

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

### Membership:

Councillor Basra (Chair)

Councillor Ajaib

Councillor Begum

Councillor Qaseem

Councillor Sadiq

(Secondary Head Teacher Representative)

(Slough Youth Parliament)

Councillor Kelly (Vice Chair)

Councillor N Holledge

Councillor Sarfraz

Councillor Sandhu

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

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 Children and Education.

The panel is responsible for Outcome One of the Five Year Plan - "Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful."

This year the panel decided to use the themes of happiness, health and success as the basis for its scrutiny.

The long term priorities for Outcome One are to;

- Work with our partners to ensure excellent outcomes for children and young people in Slough. We will do this through building on existing successful education and children's social care partnerships, ensuring children and young people are at the centre of what we do
- Reduce the numbers of children looked after and care leavers and young people with SEND who are not in education, employment or training
- Support the creation and promotion of pathways to high quality employment, including apprenticeships
- Reduce the 'conveyor belt' to social care through improved early help and early intervention

## **Specific focuses of work**

### Leisure offer for young people in Slough

The panel was advised on the current leisure offer to young people in Slough and why this was a top priority. All the actions within the Slough Leisure Strategy (2014 – 2019) contribute towards achieving the overarching vision of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy and make significant contributions to the delivery of the following outcomes:

- **Protecting vulnerable children** - New leisure facilities will be safe environments for children and will target those who are disadvantaged.
- **Improving mental health and wellbeing** – It is well established and accepted that taking part in regular sport and physical activity for both adults.

Members discussed the comprehensive list of the leisure facilities provided by SBC. how these were being promoted to young people and the uptake of the offers available.

Going forward, members thought SBC needs to look at how we can do more to educate and raise awareness amongst our young people on why being active is beneficial and raise the profile of the local offer.

#### Children missing education

The panel looked at the term 'children missing education' and its links with the risk of exclusion. The panel were also advised on what actions are being taken to improve the ways in which children missing education are monitored and returned to education.

The panel discussed how children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life. It was also explained that pupil tracking systems need to be quite sophisticated but they are truly effective when there is integrated working between partners. The arrangements in Slough are sound but are being improved.

#### Local Transformation Plan for Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

The panel received a report from the Early Years and Prevention Service and NHS East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group on the work that had been undertaken as a result of the Local Transformation Plan of the Children and Young People Mental Health and Wellbeing (East Berkshire) Plan.

The LTP was currently being refreshed with a January consultation deadline with a focus on early intervention. Early intervention training was taking place at Reading University and staff would be ready to accept cases from September 2020. 4 qualified education mental health practitioners would be based in schools from January 2020 and would receive training as part of their course.

#### Measuring Young People's Happiness

The panel discussed how an approach could be developed to measure children and young people's happiness in Slough, in line with Outcome One of the Five Year Plan.

Officers reflected that it might be necessary to develop a more formalised approach to defining and measuring young people's happiness in Slough based around the national Government's report *State of the Nation 2019: Children and Young People's Wellbeing*. Following this report officers looked at the methods and metrics that are being used nationally and sought to consider those suitable for application by SBC and our partners.

#### Young Health Champions

Members from the Education Scrutiny Panel (ECS) were invited to attend a visit to Aik Saath in February. Councillor Basra and Councillor Aajib met four Young Health Champions (YHC) to discuss with them their experiences with Aik Saath.

The YHCs are four champions from four different Slough schools, who were asked to volunteer for the programme to promote emotional wellbeing for young people in secondary schools. The YHCs found that pupils reported parents as the biggest barrier to seeking help, due to fear of shame.

Every school with a year 12 in Slough now has a programme running, including Arbour Vale (SEN), with one session a month to ensure that it is not too onerous.

The YHC explained that they had learned about the 'Five Ways of Wellbeing' (below) and made a film to help spread this message.

- i. Connect
- ii. Be Active
- iii. Give
- iv. Keep Learning
- v. Take Notice

The Chair suggested that it would be a good idea to invite the mayor to present the YHC with their certificates.

## **Looking Forward**

In 2019-20, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the three panels used the Five Year Plan to map their priorities and work streams. The Five Year plan is a live document that is refreshed every year. In 2019-20 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the panels will continue to use the outcomes from the Five Year Plan as their main framework.

In 2019-20 Slough Borough Council mobilised the Our Futures (transformation) Programme and is working towards delivering a new Operating Model for the Council. This will bring improved outcomes for local people more efficiently and effectively. It will overhaul our systems and processes and realise savings that can be reinvested into service delivery. During 2020-21 the scrutiny function will track progress of the Our Futures programme.

We look forward to receiving the final report on governance from the Local Government Association and using the recommendations to further strengthen the status of the scrutiny function so that is enabled to concentrate on issues of strategic importance to the town.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

<b>13 June 2019</b>
<b>Administrative Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of Panels</li> <li>• Work programme</li> </ul>
<b>11 July 2019</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 106 Money Unspent</li> <li>• Bus Fares and Accessibility</li> <li>• Performance and Projects Report Quarter 4 2018/19</li> <li>• Slough Borough Council Annual Report 2019/20</li> </ul>
<b>12 September 2019</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slough Gymnastics Club</li> <li>• Heathrow Expansion</li> </ul>
<b>14 November 2019</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation from the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable</li> <li>• Performance and Projects Report Quarter 1 2019/20</li> <li>• Revenue Finance Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2019/20</li> <li>• Capital Monitoring Report at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019</li> </ul>

**9 January 2020****Scrutiny Items**

- Revenue Finance Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2019/20
- Capital Monitoring Report at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019
- Medium Term Financial Strategy (2020/21 to 2022/23) and Initial 2020/21 Budget Considerations
- Performance and Projects Report Quarter 2 2019/20

**30 January 2020****Scrutiny Items**

- Capital Strategy 2020 to 2024
- Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21
- Revenue Budget 2020/21
- Equality and Inclusivity Events in Slough
- Adult Social Care Transformation Programme and Adult Social Care Improvement Programme

**12 March 2020****Scrutiny Items**

- Planning Performance, Resourcing, Customer Insight and Improvement Programme
- Revenue Finance Budget Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2019/20
- Capital Monitoring Report at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019



**HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

**27 June 2019**

**Administrative Items**

- Election of Chair
- Election of Vice Chair

**Scrutiny Items**

- Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System Long-Term Strategy
- Disability Task and Finish Group - Update and Proposed Timescales

**10 September 2019**

**Scrutiny Items**

- Frimley NHS Foundation Trust - Wholly Owned Subsidiary
- Primary Care Networks
- Frimley Health and Care ICS Long-Term Strategy Update

**15 October 2019**

**Scrutiny Items**

- Health Issues by Ward: Updating the Ward Health Profiles Through a New Data Observatory and Website for Public Health Slough
- Health Beliefs and Physical Activity Research

**20 November 2019**

**Scrutiny Items**

- Frimley Health and Care System Winter Planning 2019/20
- Annual Director of Public Health Report 2019 Berkshire - A Good Place to Work
- Disability Task and Finish Group Implementation Update

**16 January 2020**

**Scrutiny Items**

- First Annual Report on Immunisations and Screening in Slough
- Adult Social Care Strategy and Budget
- Mental Health Update
- Update on the Activity of the Slough Wellbeing Board

**NEIGHBOURHOOD AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

**24 June 2019**

**Administrative Items**

- Election of Chair
- Election of Vice Chair

**Scrutiny Items**

- The Home Improvement Agency
- Progress with implementation of Housing Asset Management Strategy and HRA Investment Programme
- Waste charges and co-operation with Bucks CC

**5 September 2019**

**Scrutiny Items**

- Key Worker Housing

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintenance and Investment (RMI) Update</li><li>• Strong Healthy and Attractive Neighbourhoods</li><li>• Slough Town Centre Update</li></ul>
<b>31 October 2019</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation</li><li>• High Street Redevelopment Update</li><li>• Voids Update</li></ul>
<b>28 November 2019</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food Hygiene</li><li>• Low Emission Strategy Update (EV Network and Car Clubs)</li><li>• Local Plan Update</li><li>• Housing Strategy Update</li><li>• Asbestos report (for information)</li></ul>
<b>14 January 2020</b>
<b>Scrutiny Items</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Housing Rents and Service Charges Update</li><li>• Western Rail Link to Heathrow - Transport Modelling of Proposed Closure of Hollow Hill Lane</li><li>• Airbnb Licensing</li><li>• Five Year Plan Outcome 4 Update</li><li>• Food Poverty Task and Finish Group Update</li></ul>

**27 February 2020**

**Scrutiny Items**

- Impact of the New Leisure Facilities
- Safer Slough Partnership Update

**17 March 2020**

**Scrutiny Items**

- Mass Rapid Transport Phase 2 – A4 Widening and Sutton Lane Gyratory
- Housing Strategy Update
- Highways and Parking in Slough

**EDUCATION AND CHILDREN SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL**  
**WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

<b>16 July 2019</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children Centres Task and Finish Group- Final report and recommendations</li> <li>• Joint Parenting Panel- Quarterly Update</li> <li>• Implementation of SEND reforms</li> </ul>
<b>23 October 2019</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measuring Young People's Happiness</li> <li>• Local Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report</li> <li>• Joint Parenting Panel Quarterly Update</li> </ul>
<b>5 December 2019</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Berks Local Transformation Plan for children's mental health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Leisure offer for young people in Slough</li> <li>• Health outcomes for children and young people</li> </ul>
<b>6 February 2020</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Briefing on the Scope- 'Children Missing Education'</li> <li>• Prevention of Youth Offending- Re-Offending</li> </ul>
<b>11 March 2020</b>	
<b>Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parenting in Slough</li> </ul>

This page is intentionally left blank