

## REPORT OF CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

### KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN SCRUTINY

1. This report updates Members on the work of scrutiny and on the implementation of recommendations made in scrutiny reviews, including updates on the work of the three standing committees.

#### Overview

2. On 22<sup>nd</sup> November Overview received briefing from Caroline Baria, Service Director Joint Commissioning, Quality and Business Change on supported employment and issues relating to the consultation on the closure of Sherwood Industries. Overview Committee heard that it is proposed that the County Council moves further towards an individualised model in relation to employment opportunities for disabled people, including opening up opportunities in mainstream employment where ever it is feasible to do so. Following this briefing the Overview Committee decided not to initiate a full Scrutiny review of the issues associated with Sherwood Industries but would take a further update in the New Year.
3. The Overview Committee also received a briefing on benefits realisation from the improvement programme and heard that over half of the £76m 2011/12 savings target has been delivered; that the majority of remaining projects are on target to deliver in full and the small number of projects (value £5.3m) experiencing degrees of threats to delivery are being dealt with through Programme Directors' Board and CLT.
4. In addition, the Overview Committee received briefing on progress in delivering the Strategic Plan up to September. The committee heard that the performance in 41% of reported PIs did better than their target and that by the end of the period, 57% of PIs had shown improved performance compared to the first quarter of the year (April to June). No actions are considered as 'not happening' and, of the 53 actions, only nine are considered as 'happening but behind schedule'. These include:
  - o Improvements to the adult reablement services that will avert the need for hospital admission
  - o Reducing the number of people in residential care
  - o Implementing a county wide strategy to reduce child poverty
  - o Reducing reliance on landfill for waste disposal
  - o Using comparisons with other councils performance to identify and implement improvement opportunities

- Delivering major building and maintenance projects - refurbishing schools and libraries
  - Implementing the procurement transformation programme to deliver agreed savings
  - Implementing key improvement actions to reduce sickness absence across the authority
  - Implementing a council-wide policy framework to ensure all policies are aligned with council priorities.
5. The Overview sub-committee examining shared services is now expected to meet in January 2012.

## **Standing Committees**

### **Communities & the Environment**

6. On 12<sup>th</sup> December the Communities and the Environment Standing Committee received briefing from Patrick Candler, Group Manager Country Parks and Green Estates on the operation and visitor experience of the Robin Hood Festival as part of the Tourism Review.
7. The Standing Committee also received a briefing on water and gas emissions from disused mines in order to determine if this is a suitable topic for a Scrutiny review.
8. The final report of the Seasonal Canine Illness/Dog Deaths study group is expected to be received by the standing committee in January.

### **Education**

9. On 7<sup>th</sup> November the Education Standing Committee received briefing on GCSE results, the attainment of Looked After Children and the Cabinet response to the review of Inclusion issues – all of the eight recommendations from this review were accepted by the Portfolio Holder.
10. On 20<sup>th</sup> December the Standing Committee will scope the poverty and educational attainment review and receive briefings on Sure Start/early years, school transport and apprenticeships.
11. A sub-committee examining the issue of the recruitment and retention of Governors last met on 22<sup>nd</sup> November and received briefing from Councillor Philip Owen and Councillor Lynn Sykes on the appointment of Local Authority Governors.

## **Social Care and Health**

12. On 28<sup>th</sup> November the Social Care and Health Standing Committee received a briefing on Joint Commissioning Strategy which indicated the policy drive towards increased integration of joint commissioning between the NHS, Public Health and Local Authorities to be led strategically by the Health and Wellbeing Board.
13. In addition, the Standing Committee received the response to the Care to Independence Review with six out of the seven recommendations fully accepted.
14. A review group of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee met on 8<sup>th</sup> November to examine the proposed merger and relocation of five GP surgeries in West Bridgford. The review group received a detailed presentation from GPs and a practice manager on the reasons for the proposed relocation; which included improving quality of patient care, allowing access to a wider range of services and a wider choice of healthcare professionals, extended clinic hours, improved car parking, greater capability for training, the facilities to allow allied health professionals to work closely together and a Disability Discrimination Act and Care Quality Commission compliant building. Further to this presentation, the review group considered that it had been properly consulted and that the proposed changes were in the interests of the local health service.
15. A special meeting of the Social Care and Health Standing Committee took place on 6<sup>th</sup> December to consider information relating to the Bassetlaw Clinical Services Review.-

## **Joint Health**

16. On 13<sup>th</sup> December the Joint City and County Health Scrutiny Committee received a briefing from NHS Nottingham City on the review of Specialist Palliative Care Services across Nottinghamshire and a briefing from Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust on the Integrated Health and Social Care Discharge Project. In addition, the Joint Health Committee is operating a study group examining issues around health messages and eating disorders which last met on November 18<sup>th</sup> when the group received information from the City and County officers responsible for healthy schools.

**COUNCILLOR JOYCE BOSNJAK  
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**