

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
26 JANUARY 2012**

**WORKING GROUPS UPDATE REPORT
Assistant Chief Executive**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Working Groups of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, excluding those which have been reported on separately: Office Accommodation Strategy (reported to the Commission at its meeting on 15 September); the New Medium Term Objectives; the New Performance Management Framework; Regulation Of Investigatory Powers; and Plans for Sustaining Economic Prosperity (reported to the Commission at its meeting on 24 November 2011). The report also invites the Commission to consider the response of the Executive to a Working Group report, and to establish a new Working Group.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission:

- 2.1 Notes the progress achieved to date by the Commission's Working Groups.**
2.2 Considers the Executive's response to the letter from the Commission's Working Group on Neighbourhood Engagement.
2.3 Establishes a Working Group on the Community Infrastructure Levy, as requested by the Executive.

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Plans for Neighbourhood Engagement

- 3.1 The response by the Leader of the Council to the letter of the Working Group on the consultative document concerning Neighbourhood Engagement, is attached to this report.

ICT Strategy

- 3.2 The Working Group, comprising Councillors Heydon (Lead Member), Angell, Ms Brown, Brunel-Walker, and Gbadebo, has been formed to provide Overview and Scrutiny input to the formulation of the Council's new Information and Communications Technology Strategy before its approval by the Executive. The first meeting of the Working Group was held on 10 November. The Working Group will meet next once the draft strategy has been produced.

Community Infrastructure Levy

- 3.3 At its meeting on 10 January 2012, the Executive received a report on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and resolved:

- That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission be invited to establish a working group to support the development of the Council's first Community Infrastructure Levy;
 - That the Commission considers inviting a representative of the Town and Parish Councils onto the working group.
- 3.4 The report to the Executive explained that the CIL will become the key mechanism by which the Council will secure money to create and modify infrastructure to ensure the impact of development is mitigated. The levy is important for the entire Council and all its services and therefore it would be beneficial if a representative group of Members were to support the creation of it.
- 3.5 CIL is a standardised tariff system for collecting contributions towards infrastructure provision from developers of residential and commercial development. It is up to Councils whether or not to introduce a CIL, but if they do not, then by April 2014, they will not be able to continue with their own system via s106 planning obligations for pooled contributions as the Council presently does through the 'Limiting the Impact of Development' Supplementary Planning Document. CIL is very important for Bracknell Forest where planned development will result in the need for significant highway improvement works and a new secondary school, among other infrastructure requirements.
- 3.6 The report to the Executive said that, although developing the CIL is an Executive function, following a briefing given to the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel in October 2011, Members expressed an interest in being involved in the development of the CIL. This support is welcomed but given the Council wide impact that the CIL would have, Officers believe Member input would be even more effective if there was representation from all the Overview and Scrutiny Panels. The intention is to have a CIL regime in place before Autumn 2013. The complexity of the process is such that Member input is being sought as soon as practically possible in 2012.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED/ ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS/ EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT/ STRATEGIC RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES / OTHER OFFICERS/ CONSULTATION – Not applicable

Background Papers

Agenda for the meeting of the Executive, 10 January 2012
Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2011-12

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