

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL  
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board  
19th December 2013**

**Title: 6 Monthly Update on Overview and Scrutiny Commission Work Programmes**

**Ward: City-wide**

**Report presented by: Ian Pagan – Democratic Services Manager**

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**Recommendation**

That the Board considers the attached updates on the last 6 months of overview and scrutiny activity.

**Summary**

6 monthly reports from individual Scrutiny Commissions are attached as follows:

Appendix 1 Neighbourhoods and Communities Scrutiny Commission

Appendix 2 Resources Scrutiny Commission

Appendix 3 Sustainable Development and Transport Scrutiny Commission

Appendix 4 Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care

Appendix 5 Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Commission

Appendix 6 Other scrutiny activity

Appendix 7 Overall Scrutiny Work Programme, January – May 2014

## Policy

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has overall responsibility for the scrutiny work programme and outcomes

## Consultation

2. Not applicable.

## Recommendation

That the Board considers the attached updates on the last 6 months of overview and scrutiny activity.

## Background

6 monthly updates are attached as appendices to this report together with the overall scrutiny work programme up to May 2014

In addition the following statistics will be of interest to the Board:

### Public Engagement (May – December)

Public Forum Statements/Questions	155
Public Attendance	150

### Web Cast figures (Live and archived views):

SD&T (Residents Parking) 20 <sup>th</sup> June	679
Mayor's Question Time at the OSMB 11 <sup>th</sup> July	853
Mayor's Question Time at the OSMB 22 October	523
<b>Followers on Twitter @bristolscrutiny</b>	<b>535</b>

**Updated Webpages** [www.bristol.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/scrutiny)

### Number of meetings up to year end 2013

Meeting	Number
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	7
Resources	6
Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care	7
Sustainable Development and Transport	4
Neighbourhoods and Communities	4
Children Young People and Families	2

Select Committee on the Role of the Local Authority in Education	5
Licensing Policy Scrutiny Board	3
Affordable Housing Panel	2
Residents Parking Working Group	2
Inquiry Days (Living Wage, Night Time Economy)	2
Workshops	2

## **Other Options Considered**

### **Risk Assessment**

Not applicable.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

The Public Sector Equality duty (Equality Act 2010 section 149) requires the Council to give due regard to the need to:

- a) Promote equality of opportunity
- b) Eliminate unlawful opportunity
- c) Promote good relations between people who share a 'protected' characteristic and those who do not

and the effect our policies and practices have on people who share the following protected characteristics

- Age
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Transgender
- Sexual Orientation
- Religion and Belief
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Disability

An Impact Assessment is not applicable to this report.

### **Legal Implications**

Not applicable

## **Resource Implications**

Not applicable

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Neighbourhoods and Communities Scrutiny Commission

Appendix 2 Resources Scrutiny Commission

Appendix 3 Sustainable Development and Transport Scrutiny  
Commission

Appendix 4 Health, Well Being and Adult Care

Appendix 5 Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Commission

Appendix 6 Other scrutiny activity

Appendix 7 – Overall scrutiny work programme

## **Access to Information**

Not applicable.

## Appendix 1

### Neighbourhoods & Communities Scrutiny Commission July - November 2013

The Commission:

- examined in some detail the findings of the annual **Quality of Life Survey**. It is now in its thirteenth year and provides an invaluable insight into life in Bristol. The results are used by the council, health service and other public sector partners to help plan local services, track change and improve the quality of life in Bristol. The Commission was encouraged to see that, in general, quality of life is improving but there are still areas of concern notably the number of residents who feel influential in the neighbourhood is still low, drunk and rowdy behaviour is not improving, problematic street litter has stayed the same, satisfaction with the council has not improved, dog fouling is a growing problem, fewer people are taking exercise and more people are obese and more people say noisy neighbours is a problem. It was agreed that the survey results should be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner in addition to Safer Bristol, for the purpose of feeding into the Police and Crime Plan.
- considered the emerging **Sports and Recreation Strategy** for Bristol with an accompanying portfolio of evidence which had informed its development. The strategy was welcomed by the Commission who felt that it was long over-due. A series of recommendations were suggested which officers will take into account when taking it forward. It was emphasised that Neighbourhood Partnerships should be used as a mechanism for consultation and for delivering the strategy and that the strategy should be non-political and owned by all.
- welcomed the progress that had been made in implementing the recommendations from the report of the inquiry into **Housing and Welfare Reforms**. It was encouraging to see that that council departments and external bodies were working together to tackle the issues.
- supported the approach taken in the **Preventing Homelessness Strategy 2013-18**

An extraordinary meeting was arranged to scrutinise in advance the Cabinet decision to **lease the lower two floors of Bristol Central Library to the Cathedral School**. There was a great deal of public interest in this item and following a lively debate, members concluded that they were unable to support the proposal and agreed a statement to that effect for the Cabinet to consider. In particular the Commission was not satisfied that that the proposal had properly taken into account the impact on library users, library staff and most importantly young people.

### Resources Scrutiny Commission June - November 2013

The Commission has:

- examined the business plan for the **Bristol Arena**, in particular the sources of capital finance
- assessed the financial impact on Council Finances of the government's **welfare reform programme**
- questioned officers on the steps being taken to control the financial pressures associated with **Deregulated Tenancies**
- agreed a plan for scrutiny involvement in the **2014-17 budget process**
- reviewed the options under consideration for the extension of the **Council Tax Reduction scheme** into 2014/15
- checked on the progress of the **ELENA programme** including the plans for the establishment of an energy and technology company
- challenged officers on slippages in the **capital programme**
- supported the revised **Discretionary Business Rate Relief Policy**
- reviewed the costing and funding options for the **South Bristol Home Waste Recycling Centre** and the **Bristol East Pool**
- endorsed the plans for the supply, installation and ownership of a large-scale domestic and non- domestic **Solar Photovoltaic (PV) programme** across a wide range of council-owned and public-sector assets.
- Supported the **Tree Planting Project** after satisfying itself that the funding arrangements were sound
- kept a watchful eye on the progress of the **Bristol Workplace Project** and the **Changing Bristol Portfolio** as they are key elements in delivering the Council's savings targets
- tested the financial model underlying the **Residents Parking Schemes (RPS)**

### **Sustainable Development and Transport Scrutiny Commission June – December 2013**

Following the Mayor's announcement of the rollout of residents' parking schemes (RPS) across the city in April, the Commission hosted a special meeting in May to consider the issues. It discussed amendments to the proposals at its June meeting and made a series of detailed recommendations to the Mayor essentially asking him to listen to the calls for a more gradual rollout. These **recommendations were accepted by the Mayor at his June Cabinet**. Subsequently, Full Council agreed that a cross-party working group should be set up to monitor the RPS implementation and this began meeting in October with an interim report going to the Commission in December.

The Commission has considered two other major areas of work over the last six months, **community transport commissioning and air quality**. The former was discussed in 2012 before a major consultation on the proposals and the Commission considered this feedback and the proposed way forward in June. A briefing note was produced by officers for further Commission comments following concerns being raised and the strategy is being considered at Cabinet in December. Regarding air quality, the **Commission held a workshop in February recommending that the Mayor develop an air quality strategy for the city**. This was agreed and a briefing note was brought to the Commission's September meeting outlining the process for finalising a strategy in 2014.

Other topics considered by the Commission have been a **planning update** with witnesses invited, an **update on progress on the Council's Walking Strategy** and a report back from the **Highways Maintenance Standards Working Group set up by the Commission in 2012** (recommendations were agreed to be taken forward by officers). Transport is always a high priority theme for the Commission and a **rail opportunities briefing workshop** was held in October prior to a West of England Travelwest stakeholder event later that month.



### Health Wellbeing and Adult Care Scrutiny Commission

#### Summary of key work programme items June - November 2013

The Commission has had a very busy year, meeting six times since June. A few of the key issues were:

- A focus on Children's cardiac services at the Children's Hospital including questions around staff shortages, information made available to patients, and development of the High Dependency Unit. This is an ongoing issue and will be the subject of a special Commission meeting in March 2014 jointly with the South Gloucestershire Public Health and Health Scrutiny Committee.
- Scrutiny of the Health and Wellbeing Board, where Commission members expressed concern that progress could be better. The Commission also wrote to the Mayor and Executive Members to express its alarm about the lack of apparent interim arrangements following the departure of the DPH, and to seek reassurance that the apparent downgrading of the post would not reduce the profile of public health in Bristol.
- A joint meeting in October with the South Gloucestershire Public Health and Health Scrutiny Committee to focus on Histopathology and Pathology, at which both scrutiny committees were very disappointed to hear that the plans for Severn Pathology had not been taken forward as had been originally proposed. (These original proposals had been the subject of a review day in April 2013 involving both scrutiny committees as well as North Somerset health scrutiny committee). The Commission's lead members subsequently wrote to the Boards of both NBT and UHB requesting reassurance that both Trusts would continue to work together to implement the improved service.
- The Commission agreed the NHS's proposed changes to the 2010 proposals for the Frenchay health development as they did not consider that these constituted a substantial variation for Bristol residents.
- Members adopted a joint protocol between the Commission and the Health and Wellbeing Board to set out how to work together.
- The Commission also agreed a more structured way of working with the Care Quality Commission in order to better share information and identify issues of concern.

### Children Young People and Families Scrutiny Commission

The Commission has met twice in September and December and held a workshop on the School Organisation Plan. The Lead Members of the Commission have also been part of the Select Committee on the Role of the Local Authority in Education which published a final report in November.

In September the Commission:

- Requested a more detailed response from the Executive to the recommendations made at the Scrutiny Inquiry on Services for Children and Young People with SEN and Disabilities
- Examined the headline results for KS4, GCSE and A level and requested further more in depth analysis at a future meeting, in particular relating to specific pupil groups/schools
- Noted that the Ofsted - Bristol local authority focussed inspection: 3 to 14 June 2013 (letter dated 6 September 2013 from Lorna Fitzjohn, HMI Regional Director South West) would soon be on the website and received information on how the LA would be engaged with under-performing schools.
- Examined the Annual Safeguarding Report and expressed concerns in particular about heavy caseloads, diversity of representation on the Board, engagement with voluntary and community groups, lack of equalities impact assessment in relation to the Board's work and requested further information on the Bilingual Family Mentoring Project (BFMP).
- In relation to the School Organisation Plan re-iterated the importance of local consultations and involvement of ward members and requested that more detail on the future direction for secondary and special education be included in the Cabinet report on the Plan.

Main topics for consideration in December were:

- Budget proposals 14- 17
- Children First Transformation Programme – 6 month progress update
- Troubled Families Update
- Forthcoming Ofsted Inspection
- School Organisation Plan/Capital Programme Update
- Youth Links Update
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Performance Outturn
- Scope for an Adoption Inquiry joint with the Corporate Parenting Panel
- Proposal to establish a School Improvement Sub-Group
- Scope for a joint meeting with the Youth Select Committee on Youth Links Contracts

## **Select Committee on the Role of the Authority in Education**

The aim of the Select Committee was to carry out a discreet examination of:

- The role of the Council in school improvement and raising standards
- The role of individual Councillors; and
- The role of Councillors collectively through overview and scrutiny.

The investigation was complementary to the “Education Directions for Bristol’ consultation launched by the Mayor and Cabinet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July. The report on Education Policy Directions for the City and the Select Committee report were considered by Cabinet on the 5<sup>th</sup> December. The report will be debated by Council on the 17<sup>th</sup> December with a response expected from the Executive by February 2014.

The Committee met between August and November and made 15 recommendations including:

- A new stakeholder “partnership for excellence” to rationalise the current groupings
- A renewed focus on school to school support
- Clear processes for dealing with underperforming schools
- A focus on ensuring school governance structures are fit-for-purpose
- Encouraging more federation
- Scrutiny training for members and officers
- A new scrutiny group to engage with school inspections and improvement
- A focus on all Bristol schools and institutions
- Scrutiny to engage outside City Hall
- New training for LA governors undertaken by all political nominees
- A new protocol for school and Councillor relationships
- The role of Neighbourhood Partnerships to include engagement with schools

### **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board sponsored activity**

#### **Living Wage Inquiry June 2013**

The recommendations from the Inquiry were agreed by the Board on the 11<sup>th</sup> July and are with the Mayoral Fairness Commission

#### **Retail Levy Inquiry 15<sup>th</sup> August**

The one off Inquiry was carried out at the request of Full Council. The report and recommendations from the Inquiry were accepted by Full Council on the 10<sup>th</sup> September

#### **Licensing Policy Scrutiny Board**

Report to Full Council on a proposed Cumulative Impact Policy for a Specific Area in Bedminster and Southville Wards – report agreed by Full Council 10<sup>th</sup> September

Statement of Licensing Policy for Consultation – Agreed by Full Council 10<sup>th</sup> September

Interim Report on the Late Night Levy - Recommendations agreed by the Assistant Mayor for Leisure, Tourism, Licensing and Community Safety

#### **Night Time Economy Inquiry Day – 5<sup>th</sup> December**

Attended by 50+ participants for a visioning day – the report will come to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in Jan/February

**Bristol Overview & Scrutiny 2013/14 – Summary of Work Programmes as at December 2013**

Month	Other Scrutiny Activity	Overview & Scrutiny Management Board	Health, Well-Being & Adult Care Scrutiny Commission	Children Young People and Families Scrutiny Commission	Sustainable Development and Transport Scrutiny Commission	Resources Scrutiny Commission	Neighbourhoods and Communities Scrutiny Commission
Dec	<p><b>4th December</b> Inquiry into the Night Time Economy (sponsored by the OSMB) 10am – 2.30pm</p>	<p><b>19th December</b> <b>Cabinet Question Time – The Mayor 6 – 7pm</b></p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme</p> <p>Forward Plan</p> <p>Budget Proposals 2014/15– comments from scrutiny to Resources in January</p> <p>Centre for Public Scrutiny Review of Overview and Scrutiny in Bristol – Findings and Recommendations (provisional</p>	<p><b>18th December – 2.00pm</b></p> <p>Budget Proposals 2014/15– comments from scrutiny to Resources in January</p> <p>Sexual Health Open Services budget issues Recommendations from Adult Safeguarding Select Committee</p> <p>Health and Social Care Transformation</p>	<p><b>16th December</b> <b>12.30pm –</b> Budget Proposals 2014/15– comments from scrutiny to Resources in January</p> <p><b>2pm</b> Troubled Families – Review of progress</p> <p>Preliminary Review of the Youth Links Contract</p> <p>Early Years/Early Help Scrutiny Review Group Report – Response from Assistant Mayor</p> <p>Scrutiny Inquiry – Services to Children and Young People with SEN and Disabilities – follow up of recommendations with Assistant Mayor for Children and Young People and</p>	<p><b>19th December</b></p> <p>Budget Proposals 2014/15– comments from scrutiny to Resources in January</p> <p>Green Capital Inquiry Report</p> <p>Buses Review</p> <p>Promoting Food Growing</p> <p>Interim RPS Working Group Report</p>	<p><b>13th December</b></p> <p>Budget Proposals and Mayoral Corporate Plan including EQIA’s and consultation feedback to date</p>	<p><b>10th December</b></p> <p>Budget Proposals 2014/15– comments from scrutiny to Resources in January</p> <p>Monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Informal &amp; Adult Learning</p> <p>Development of new byelaws for parks and green spaces.</p> <p>Tree Planting Project</p>

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		dependent on completion of Review)		Assistant Mayor Health and Social Care Annual Safeguarding Report follow up from meeting in September			
Jan	West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee  28 <sup>th</sup> January 2.00pm Licensing Policy Scrutiny Board	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme  Forward Plan  Cabinet Question Time – Cllr Gus Hoyt Assistant Mayor for Neighbourhoods, Environment and Council Housing 6pm – 7pm	21 <sup>st</sup> January – 2.00pm  Scrutiny Overview of local NHS responses to Francis Report  Health and Well Being Board Work Programme  Health and Social Care Transformation	Working Group on Post 16 Issues: Raising Participation Age, Work Readiness, Skills and Careers Advice. Possibly jointly with SD&T Commission.  Adoption Inquiry – Joint with Corporate Parenting Board tbd	30 <sup>th</sup> January – 2.00pm Employment and Enterprise Strategy: update on recommendations/ possible feedback on Education and Skills Mayoral Commission. Possibly jointly with CYPF Commission.  Strategic Waste Update  Flood Risk Annual Report	13 <sup>th</sup> January 9.30am  2014/15 Budget Scrutiny Meeting  <i>Cabinet Budget meeting is on 16th January 2014</i>  <i>Full Council Budget Meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014</i>	
Feb		20 <sup>th</sup> February Cabinet Question Time – Cllr Barbara Janke – Assistant Mayor for Health and Social Care				28 <sup>th</sup> February 9.30am  Revenue Budget Monitoring – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013/14  Capital Programme	

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		<p>Cllr Simon Cook – Assistant Mayor for Leisure, Tourism, Licensing and Community Safety 6 – 7pm</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme</p> <p>Forward Plan</p>				<p>Monitoring – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013/14</p> <p>Changing Bristol Portfolio Update – 6 monthly update</p>	
<b>March</b>	West of England Joint Scrutiny Committee	<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> March Cabinet Question Time – The Mayor 6 – 7pm</b></p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme</p> <p>Forward Plan</p>	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm</b></p> <p>BCH Quality Account – key themes</p> <p>Children’s Cardiac Services at Children’s Hospital</p> <p>Health and Social Care</p>	<p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> March – 2.00pm</b></p> <p>Joint meeting with the Youth Select Committee to review the Youth Links contract</p>	<p><b>19<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm</b></p> <p>Democratising Cycling Inquiry update on recommendations/ &amp; Cycling Strategy</p> <p>High St Inquiry update</p>	<p><b>21<sup>st</sup> March – 9.30am</b></p>	<p><b>4<sup>th</sup> March – 2.00pm</b></p> <p>Annual Report from Homes 4 Bristol and the Bristol Housing Partnership</p> <p>Annual Report from the Housing Management Board</p>

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			Transformation		Air Quality Strategy Proposals		
<b>April</b>			<b>15<sup>th</sup> April – 2.00pm</b>  Modernising Mental Health Services – outcome of procurement process			<b>11<sup>th</sup> April – 9.30am</b>  Outcome Performance Reports – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2013/14	





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Items Not Yet agreed			<p>Children's Neurological Services</p> <p>Adult Congenital Heart Disease</p> <p>Prioritisation of national specialised service specifications</p> <p>Vascular services review</p> <p>Cystic fibrosis services review</p> <p>Mental Health provision (medium and high level and secure services)</p> <p>Commissioning strategy for intensive floating support services (mental health and HIV)</p> <p>Paediatric Cardiology</p>	<p>Remodelling Specialist Provision, including SEN Strategy &amp; indicative Capital Investment requirements- July 2013</p> <p>Service Thresholds – October 2013 Cabinet Report</p> <p>Children's homes and short breaks for disabled children – Nov 2013</p> <p>Core IT Solution and Investment – autumn 2013, date tbc</p>	<p>Inquiry on Food Production and Land use. Proposed to be jointly held with Health Scrutiny and the Food Policy Council and should cover protection of allotment sites and agricultural land within the City boundary and green belt. Cllr Tess Green</p>	<p>Review of costing and funding options for the South Bristol Home Waste Recycling Centre</p> <p>Bristol East Pool</p> <p>2014/15 Budget Scrutiny Process</p> <p>Personalisation of adult social care funding – financial implications</p> <p>The impact of actual and predicted population growth on financial resources and service planning</p> <p>The importance of external funding for job and wealth creation</p> <p>Council Tax Reduction Scheme 14/15 – Final Options (Pre decision</p>	<p>Discretionary Licensing – 12 month review of pilot schemes</p> <p>Sports &amp; Leisure Facilities for Youth and Older People</p> <p>Neighbourhood Partnerships</p> <p>Community Cohesion Strategy</p>



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