



# Overview and Scrutiny

## Annual Report 2015/16

## Contents:

- 3 Foreword by the Scrutiny Commissioners
- 4 Comments from the Leader
- 5 What is Overview and Scrutiny?
- 6 Overview and Scrutiny in 2015/16
  - 6 The Scrutiny Commission
  - 9 Adults and Communities
  - 12 Children and Families
  - 15 Environment and Transport
  - 18 Health
  - 21 Scrutiny Review of Line Speed Improvements at Market Harborough
- 22 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Memberships 2015/16
- 23 Officers to contact

**Cover image:** *The opening of Barrow Community Library in July 2015. The first library in Leicestershire to successfully transfer into community management. The transfer of libraries into community management has been the subject of significant interest at the Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2015/16 (see page 11).*

## Foreword by the Scrutiny Commissioners

**There's no doubt that the £80m of savings that the Council is required to achieve between now and 2020 (which is on top of the £80m already saved) as part of its Medium Term Financial Strategy is a daunting challenge. Whilst we in Overview and Scrutiny are not responsible for making the decisions that lie behind those savings we do have a crucial role in ensuring that the way they are made is fair and protect the most vulnerable in our society.**

We have already seen that the Council's savings are impacting frontline service provision, something which is unfortunate but inevitable considering the bleak financial climate. The best financial forecasting suggests this is only going to worsen as we continue to navigate our way through a programme of substantial savings. Beyond providing a check and balance on services, Overview and Scrutiny can play its part in ensuring that the public is both aware of the scale of the savings required and are able to have their say. This was certainly the case with Leicestershire's Library Service where we not only saw public interest and engagement, but also a willingness to take charge of these services for the ongoing benefit of local communities across the County (see page 11).

We have enjoyed a good level of engagement with our Cabinet colleagues at Overview and Scrutiny this past year where Cabinet Lead Members have played an active role in supporting the Scrutiny process and addressing any concerns we have raised. One highlight in this regard was the lengthy work we were engaged in debating the Fire Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan (see page 6).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those members of the Council who have been involved in Overview and Scrutiny over the past twelve months including those members of the Cabinet who have attended our meetings and provided answers to our questions. Officers also provide a valuable role in ensuring we are able to do our job efficiently and effectively and we would therefore also wish to thank them for their much valued support and advice.

Rather than a complete commentary of everything we have achieved this past year this Annual Report serves as a summary of the key highlights of the work we have been engaged in during 2015/16. We hope it reflects what we feel has been a very productive year in Overview and Scrutiny and we hope you enjoy reading it.



**Simon Galton CC**



**Kevin Feltham CC**



**Richard Shepherd CC**



**Robert Sharp CC**

The Scrutiny Commissioners

*The four Scrutiny Commissioners are responsible for leading the Overview and Scrutiny process, deciding on priority issues for Overview and Scrutiny Committees and areas that could be reviewed by a Scrutiny Review Panel.*

## Comments from the Leader

**As members of the decision making Cabinet we really value the input of Overview and Scrutiny and the role it has in strengthening democracy in Leicestershire.**

My Cabinet colleagues and I have been active at Overview and Scrutiny committee meetings this past year providing answers to any questions that have arisen, be it on the budget, the plans and strategies that form the policy framework and some of the more emerging issues.

We particularly value the role scrutiny review panels play in assisting with policy development or tackling issues of concern head on. Of particular interest recently has been the review panel on the line speed and associated improvements at Market Harborough Station which recently reported its findings to us (see page 21). We were also extremely grateful for the work of Overview and Scrutiny in developing the support package for communities wanting to take on the running of libraries.

We expect further input from Overview and Scrutiny in the coming year as we continue to make what will be some extremely difficult savings required in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Cabinet members will again be involved at Overview and Scrutiny meetings and be answerable to members on key policy issues. This two-way exchange will continue to be of enormous value as we negotiate our way through what will unfortunately be some very challenging times indeed.



**Nicholas Rushton CC**  
Leader of Leicestershire County Council

## What is Overview and Scrutiny?

**Overview and Scrutiny is not “decision making” but comprises several bodies which monitor and influence those that are, such as the Cabinet. The Overview and Scrutiny role, carried out by non-Cabinet members, is designed to support the work of the Council in the following ways:**

- By reviewing and scrutinising decisions taken by the Cabinet, also known as acting as a “critical friend”
- By considering aspects of the Council’s performance
- By assisting in research, policy review and development
- By involving itself with external organisations operating in the County to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
- By providing a means of involving the community in the Council’s work

In Leicestershire we have the Scrutiny Commission, the lead Overview and Scrutiny body, and four service-based Committees for Adults and Communities, Children and Families, Environment and Transport and Health. Each Committee has a role in performance monitoring, enabling members to scrutinise detailed performance information and service delivery.

In addition to the committee-based work they carry out, Overview and Scrutiny Committees can also initiate task and finish work to look at a particular issue in more detail. Scrutiny review panels, as they are known, are made up of usually five members and their recommendations, which may suggest a change in policy or service provision, are submitted to the relevant parent committee prior to consideration by the Cabinet.

All Overview and Scrutiny meetings are held in public session and attendance and involvement of the public is actively encouraged either via questions to be put at our meetings or suggestions for our work programme.

For further information about Overview and Scrutiny and how you can get involved in the process please contact one of the named officers for each committee or visit our website: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny)



# Overview and Scrutiny in 2015/16

## The Scrutiny Commission

The Scrutiny Commission is the lead Overview and Scrutiny body, looking at the Council's budget and performance as well as the Leicester and Leicestershire Economic Partnership (LLEP), which is responsible for the economy and strategic transport covering the County and Leicester City. The Commission also has a role to look at issues that cover the remit of more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## Highlights

### Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service

At the start of a debate on the Fire Service's Integrated Risk Management Plan we could not have envisaged that it would continue for around 6 hours and span two meeting dates but that is exactly what happened at our meetings in November of last year.

This matter had been referred to Overview and Scrutiny at an extraordinary meeting of the full County Council where it had been resolved that the Scrutiny Commission should formulate its views on the matter and submit them to the Cabinet. The proposals were significant and included station closures and potential job losses as well as changes in the equipment used and the approaches taken to tackle fires and other dangerous incidents, including a reduction in the number of fire engines.

Having heard from the Chief Fire Officer, fire unions, a group of retired firefighters and Councillors, the Commission noted significant concerns around capacity and safety in light of the proposed cuts. It also noted concern around 101 posts which had been "disestablished" as a means of avoiding compulsory redundancy (ie. firefighters which were effectively regarded by the Service as being "no longer required" but remained on the books). The views for and against the proposals were submitted to the Cabinet. Following this, in February of this year the Fire Authority ultimately agreed to withdraw the proposed cuts which would have led to the closure of Kibworth and Central stations. This was as a result of £2m of additional funding received from Central Government when it elected to transfer its fire functions from the Department for Communities and Local Government to the Home Office.



## Tourism

The Committee has overseen significant developments in respect of the way in which tourists are attracted to the County. We met with representatives of Leicester Shire Promotions at our meeting in September and were updated on what appeared to be a positive picture in terms of the County's tourism offer.

More recently officers reported to us on the outcome of an independent review of Tourism Support Services and an associated public consultation process. The area now had an improved footing in the marketplace, largely as a result of the Richard III exhibition and the excellent performance of Leicester City Football Club in this season's Premier League campaign. It was hoped that any new arrangements for tourism could build on the area's recent successes and increase tourist interest in overnight stays which were viewed as being the key to ensuring a vibrant tourism economy.



## The Combined Authority

The Council had taken the decision to press on with proposals to form a Combined Authority. It is important to note that this was not a “merger” of existing local authorities or proposals to form a “unitary” authority. The Combined Authority would enable decisions around economic development and transport to be taken in a more holistic way across the County and City, in an effort to provide greater leadership and accelerate economic prosperity.

In scrutinising the proposals the Commission was generally supportive of the approach the Council had taken and the way in which it had worked pro-actively and constructively with

our City Council partners to formulate the proposals swiftly. At the same time it was hoped that some greater clarity could be provided in the future around its governance structure and how exactly the body would be scrutinised. We are looking forward to learning more about this in the forthcoming year.

### **The Budget**

It remained a familiarly bleak picture regarding the Council's financial position when we considered the Medium Term Financial Strategy at our first meeting of 2016. Though the Government had enabled those authorities providing adult social care services to apply up to a 2% levy on precepts specifically for spending on social care, the financial position remained notably strained. This was not helped by the fact that the Council remained one of the worst funded authorities in the country and despite some well publicised lobbying of ministers this unfortunately did not appear likely to improve in the near future. Savings had already begun to affect frontline services and this was expected to worsen. Overview and Scrutiny will have a continued role to play in ensuring that the services we do continue to provide are fit for purpose and protect the most vulnerable in our society insofar as it is possible.

### **Looking ahead to 2016/17**

Aside from maintaining a robust check and balance on performance, some of our main focus will be placed on the work the Council is engaged in to build and improve economic growth. The Council is formulating plans around strategic growth and infrastructure and it is crucial that we are able to deliver growth for the area. An extension of this will be the work being carried out to maximise the Council's traded offer. We have for some time successfully traded services such as School Food but we need to develop more services which can be traded in this way to make a significant contribution to the Council's financial position.

#### **Overview and Scrutiny by numbers**

# 113

**Reports considered in 2015/16**



## Adults and Communities

The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee looks at issues around adult social care and communities and wellbeing. It also has a role to monitor the work the Health and Wellbeing Board carries out in relation to integrated commissioning.

### Adult Social Care Strategy

The ageing population along with an ever increasing demand for social services by younger adults with disabilities has meant that we have kept a close eye on the Adults and Communities department's Strategy which aims to ensure that resources are used effectively and efficiently so the right support is in place at the right time for service users.

We have considered and commented on the draft Strategy. The Strategy proposed a new model for service delivery with a greater focus on community involvement. We sought and obtained assurance that plans were in hand to build capacity in the community to act in this way. We also stressed the importance of prevention and promoting independence by focusing on outcomes for service users to ensure they were given opportunities to become healthier, thus hopefully reducing the demand for ongoing support. We learned that this approach would be supplemented by the "Promoting Independence, Supporting Communities" Strategy, aimed at enabling the correct level of support at the correct time for service users.

### Direct Payment Card and Customer Journey Simplification

In line with the Government's strategy to enable personalised care the County Council has committed to the provision of personal budgets. In September 2015 we considered a more user-friendly and efficient way of managing personal budgets by direct payment cards. We learned that this innovative solution offered service users a more responsive approach that could be reviewed in line with their ongoing changing needs.



### **Donington-le-Heath Manor House**

In addition to Adult Social Care, Community and Wellbeing services have also had to operate within an ever reducing budget. Rather than react to a reducing budget by reducing services, we noted with interest new plans for Donington-le-Heath Manor House which had been experiencing a decline in visits in recent years. Following renovation a new strategy was put in place aimed at generating income with the aim of running the facility at zero cost to the tax payer. The strategy aimed to create an authentic 1620s theme and exploit the links to the Digby family to market the Manor House's involvement in the gunpowder plot. The proposals include introducing a charge and a change in opening hours which will ensure the sustainability of the museum going forward.



### **Looking ahead to 2016/17**

Over the past twelve months we have watched with interest the significant transformation of our Library Service to a “community management” model. We were pleased that communities have now taken charge of nearly all County libraries and we remain hopeful that the few remaining libraries will follow suit. We will keep a watching brief on the performance of libraries to ensure the best possible service is being provided.

We recognise that the integration of social care and health is becoming increasingly necessary to provide a seamless service to service users and to reduce duplication in the system. Partnership working in this area is well advanced through the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland-wide Better Care Together Partnership. We will seek to ensure that the important role that social care plays in managing demand across the health and care system is recognised.

## Case Study on Community Libraries

The transfer of libraries from being Council run to a new “community management” model was a key strand of the department’s savings targets and therefore a key matter for our work programme. The year prior, as part of the planning process, Overview and Scrutiny was instrumental in developing the support package to be offered to local communities who might wish to take on responsibility for running libraries. Last year we scrutinised a total of six reports on the transfer of the County’s village libraries to community management at the same time addressing any concerns of communities about their role in the process.

Following a lengthy consultation process in 2014, communities registered interest in running 29 out of the Council’s 36 libraries. Having taken a significant interest in this process, we as a committee were overwhelmed by this response. By May 2015, 19 library business plans had been agreed and ongoing support was provided to those communities whose submissions needed further work to establish a way forward. By the end of June 2015, 21 communities were well positioned for managing their local library. Viable bids have now been received for 31 libraries in total and 16 libraries have already successfully transferred to community management.

Because of the nature of a programme like this, it was inevitable that some communities would perhaps find themselves without a viable business plan. We held a special meeting in February at which we looked in more detail at the future direction for Barwell, Braunstone Town, Mountsorrel and Narborough libraries, which had unfortunately found themselves in this predicament. We were pleased to note that a way forward would be established for these communities to enable an ongoing library service.

The mobile library service has also been tailored to meet the individual requirements of each community that does not have a standard library so that services could be accessed at the times that best suited them. We particularly welcomed the additional 39 stops that would be added to the service and an increase in the number of books that could be borrowed with a more flexible loan period. We will continue to review the library service to ensure the best quality of service is provided to Leicestershire residents and we anticipate a further report on this in 2017 when the new arrangements will have had a chance to bed in.

Overview and Scrutiny by numbers

# 58

Hours of debate in 2015/16





## Children and Families

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee looks at issues around social service provision for children and families, educational attainment in schools and academies and youth support services. It also monitors the work of the Children and Young People's Commissioning Board and the Supporting Leicestershire Families Service.

### Highlights

#### Education of Children in Care

We learned about the range of work undertaken by the "Virtual School" to support education and raise the aspirations of Leicestershire's children in care. It was pleasing to note that the Virtual School was also able to work with foster carers and those involved in the education and support of children in care to ensure that available funding, such as the Pupil Premium was used effectively to support children throughout the entirety of the year. We were greatly interested in the opportunities the Council offers to children in care to increase their confidence and self-esteem in and outside of school through Football Clubs, the Beacon Choir and "Tall Ships" - a project aimed at supporting young people to reach their potential through adventure sailing voyages.

We asked the Children's Social Care Panel, which a number of our Committee members serve on, to take a closer look at the impact that below average educational attendance can have on our children in care and the actions taken by the Virtual School and partners to encourage better attendance. Whilst the educational performance of children in care is poor nationally we were reassured by the positive work being undertaken locally by the Virtual School and the partnerships it maintains. We look forward to hearing more in the future about the impact of this work on the educational outcomes for Leicestershire's Children in Care and the differences made nationally through the introduction of Virtual Schools.



## Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

We continue to receive regular updates on Leicestershire's efforts to tackle child sexual exploitation, an issue which has been of a particularly high profile in recent times. We were thrilled to learn that a bid made to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) had been endorsed securing £1.3m of funding to tackle CSE. In February of this year the Council and its partners launched a "CEASE" campaign - the "Commitment to Eradicate Abuse and Sexual Exploitation" - which many members have by now pledged to support and the support of Leicester City Football Club in allowing the use of their ground to launch the campaign was welcomed. This issue remains of the highest priority for the Committee and we will continue to monitor the impact of communications work, recruitment efforts to our specialist multi-agency CSE team, and the impact of the new project work as a result of the new funding. The Committee continues to increase its understanding and awareness of the signs of CSE and the type of activity necessary to support those at risk of and those who have suffered from CSE.

You can pledge your support for the **CEASE campaign** by visiting:

<https://www.causes.com/campaigns/99225-eradicate-the-abuse-and-sexual-exploitation-of-children>



## Placement Commissioning

The Children and Families department has a savings target of £4.87m for 2016/17. Challenges such as commissioning specialist placements and addressing the increase in CSE referrals all put pressure on its ability to deliver savings of this magnitude whilst continuing to provide the best care and services for vulnerable children, young people and families.

The department has been able to deliver such savings with the agreement to close Greengates Children's Home which houses only one young person. The closure not only delivers savings but is also in line with a move away from institutional care towards providing family based care where possible.

We also learnt of the department's plans and targets to recruit and retain more in-house foster carers and were pleased to hear about plans to recruit and develop a support service for Level 6 specialist foster carers who it was hoped would meet the more specific needs of children and young people across the County.

## Looking ahead to 2016/17

As the number of children coming into the care of the local authority continues to rise year on year we will need to monitor how the demand is resourced and any implications this may have for our service users. Child sexual exploitation remains a high priority and we will look forward to learning how our preventative work and communications campaigns affect referral rates and awareness levels. The department has also implemented the "Signs of Safety" methodology across its work with children, young people and families. Viewed as being a revolutionary approach to child protection work, Signs of Safety aims to build partnerships with parents and children in situations of suspected or substantiated child abuse and then rigorously with the maltreatment issues. We will be very interested to learn the extent to which this is making a difference for our service users.

### Overview and Scrutiny by numbers

# 28

Committee meetings held in 2015/16

## Environment and Transport

The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee looks at issues around roads and road safety, public transport and waste and recycling. It also acts as the Council's Flood Risk Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### Highlights

#### Listening to local communities

Throughout the year we have continued to ensure that the Environment and Transport department works with local communities to ensure that our highways, transport and waste services are not just delivered efficiently but meet the needs of all who use them. Following a spike in customer queries regarding grass cutting during 2015 we were pleased to see the department respond by restoring the number of cuts from 5 to 6 per annum. We were further reassured by the department's significant investment in its customer service response to grass cutting enquiries which had led to a smarter and more dynamic approach which should result in grass verges remaining at safe levels throughout the whole year.

In November 2015 we were consulted on proposals to change Hugglescote Crossroads which would have partially demolished a community building considered by the public to be a treasured asset. In response we recommended to the Cabinet that the proposals should not go ahead, a position they agreed with.





### **Road safety**

We have continued to receive quarterly updates on the department's performance and we have been extremely pleased to see that it is achieving above and beyond its targets for the majority of its strategic objectives despite the significant and ongoing financial challenge it faces. However the unfortunate increase in those killed or seriously injured (KSI) on Leicestershire's roads over the past year prompted us to request a report explaining on how the department was responding to this serious matter. Although the rise had occurred within the context of a national increase we were reassured that the department was taking the matter very seriously. A number of actions were being taken on an ongoing basis including commenting on planning applications to ensure developments on the highways were safe and encouraging the use of community speed watch schemes and speed awareness courses. We remain hopeful that these actions will equate to a reduction in KSIs and see them return to the low levels we are familiar with.

### **Recycling and household waste sites**

In November we heard about the department's intentions to change the provision of services at recycling and household waste sites to save £1.1m. As a result the views we expressed and those of the public the department made a change to their opening hours that meant they would remain open throughout the whole week. Other changes implemented included charging for household DIY waste and some adjustments to tipping permits, changes necessary to ensure that the facilities remained open, something which residents told us was important to them.





### **The minerals and waste local plan**

Twice during the past year we have scrutinised the County's minerals and waste local plan which sets out the key principles which guide the extraction of minerals and the location of waste facilities up to the period ending 2031. During the process we raised concerns regarding shale gas extraction and the location of waste sites. Officers responded by providing a briefing for all members of the County Council on the legal and operational aspects of shale gas extraction. There remain no proposals for shale gas extraction in Leicestershire.

### **Flooding**

As the lead authority on flooding the Council is required to produce a local flood risk management strategy and monitor flood risk on an ongoing basis. In September 2015 we scrutinised this strategy which set out the primary flood risk areas in Leicestershire and outlined a proactive way in which the Council aimed to reduce flood risk and cooperate with other agencies in the event of a major flooding incident. Though the weather has been kinder to us recently we must keep on top of this issue and ensure we are able to respond quickly to any future incidents.

### **Looking ahead to 2016/17**

We will continue to proactively monitor the department's performance during a period of unprecedented financial challenge. This will include not only quarterly performance monitoring reports but also keeping abreast of issues such as our approach to the commissioning of recycling and household waste services. We will be keeping a close eye on any major changes to services as a result of budget cuts in areas such as community transport which is particularly valued in rural areas. Furthermore we will be hearing more about how the department is driving economic growth in the County with the development of the rail strategy, in addition to a number of other major transport developments including the conclusion of the Hinckley Area Project.

#### **Overview and Scrutiny by numbers**

# 38

**Times comments were submitted to  
the Cabinet in 2015/16**



## Health

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee looks at the planning and provision of health services in the County and the work of the Council's Public Health department. It also scrutinises the activities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### Highlights

The increasing demand on NHS services coupled with a challenging financial position has meant that a lot of the issues we have scrutinised this past year have related to the difficulties in managing demand and providing safe services. We have remained focused on the needs of patients, recognising that their safety and the quality of care they receive must be our first consideration.

#### **Ambulance Handovers**

This has been a very challenging year for local health services. Delays in ambulance handovers at the Leicester Royal Infirmary have been a particular area of concern. We really welcomed the high numbers of patients who are treated "on site" by the East Midlands Ambulance Service which means they are not taken to hospital relieving pressure on A&E. However, we were concerned that performance of the urgent care system remains below national standards. We will continue to monitor the situation closely to ensure that patient safety and quality of care remain of paramount importance and that all possible actions are being taken to improve performance.

### **Future of Community Health Services in Ashby**

At the request of the Ashby Civic Society, we reconsidered the decision of West Leicestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust to close Ashby and District Community Hospital. We heard from both CCG officers and a representative of the Civic Society. Having considered all the evidence, we concluded that a referral to the Secretary of State was not appropriate and in all probability was unlikely to succeed. We asked the CCG to make sure that the concerns raised were taken into account in all future commissioning decisions of this nature and to seek to ensure that community based services are provided for patients as close to home as is safely possible.

### **First Contact Plus**

In November we heard from the Director of Public Health about a range of initiatives focused on improving self-care, education and prevention. This included developing an existing service, “First Contact”, which organised referrals for vulnerable adults to appropriate organisations so that they could get the help they needed in relation to debt, benefits, housing and health and wellbeing issues. We were pleased to see that this service was being expanded to include support with lifestyle behaviours, such as smoking and physical activity as well as issues such as falls prevention and mental health. However, we expressed concern that the scheme was being rebranded “My Health, My Life” as we felt this would cause confusion for service providers used to the existing scheme. We suggested that it be called “First Contact Plus” to ensure continuity and we were delighted that this was agreed to and that the service will be further expanded as part of the department’s commissioning intentions to include a triage system and enable self-referral from members of the public.



### **Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT): Outcome of Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection**

We heard from LPT about the outcome of their CQC Inspection which had resulted in a rating of “requires improvement” and we were particularly concerned about a number of patient safety issues that had been raised. We monitored the situation closely and were reassured by improvements such as actions to improve the safety of drug storage. Having looked also at staffing levels we had regard to the national recruitment issues and were assured that plans were in place to manage recruitment and the retention of staff. Monitoring of patient safety and service quality will remain a priority going forward.

### **Healthwatch**

We have an excellent relationship with Healthwatch. Rick Moore, the Chairman of Healthwatch Leicestershire, is a regular participating observer at our meetings and his contributions are always welcomed as they help us to focus on the needs of patients. The [Annual Report of Healthwatch Leicestershire](#) provides examples of its excellent work in engaging with patients and representing their views to service providers and commissioners.

## **Looking ahead to 2016/17**

We expect the pressures that have come to the fore in the health services this year, in terms of demand and finances and the consequential impact on patient safety and quality of care, to continue next year as well. We have been advised that plans are in hand to address these problems by a fundamental review of the whole of Leicestershire’s Health Service - the Better Care Together Strategy. We look forward to seeing these proposals. We will need to continue to receive regular updates on how services are performing to ensure that Leicestershire residents are getting the best outcomes possible whenever they need to use the health service. There will also be an increased focus on preventing people from needing to access services and we look forward to seeing the plans of our Public Health department in this area.



## Scrutiny Review Panel of Line Speed Improvements at Market Harborough

**In 2011 Network Rail announced that the Midland Mainline (running between London St Pancras and Sheffield) was to be electrified ‘by the end of the decade’. Since then it has committed to improving the overall performance and capacity of the line, including the line speed running through Market Harborough. A Scrutiny Review Panel was subsequently established to determine what benefits these improvements would bring to the area, what exactly the proposals are to improve the line and the station and how Network Rail would minimise disruption whilst the work takes place.**

The Panel heard from a range of stakeholders including Network Rail, East Midlands Trains and local members, user groups, and the LLEP of the numerous benefits that improving the line speed and the station would bring to Leicestershire and beyond. The Panel’s review also incorporated an extremely valuable site visit to the Station, guided by Network Rail, on exactly where the improvements would be made to the facilities.

Having listened to the proposals for the new railway line we were pleased that the disruption to passengers was expected to be minimal but there would be some alterations to highways and public rights of way.

It has become clear throughout the Review that the crucial factor in the success of the £40m project would be addressing its current £9.3m funding gap. Despite this, there has been general recognition amongst the Panel and its consultees for the importance of the project to the local community and the economic benefits it hopes to yield beyond the City and County boundaries.

The final recommendations of the Panel will be presented to the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet in June. Its recommendations will cover a broad sphere of topics relating to the station and the wider Market Harborough area. Further details of the Panel’s meetings are available [here](#).



# Overview and Scrutiny memberships 2015/16

## The Scrutiny Commission

Ruth Camamile CC  
 Jackie Dickinson CC  
 Dr Kevin Feltham CC  
 Simon Galton CC (Chairman)  
 Dr Sarah Hill CC  
 David Jennings CC  
 Keith Lynch CC  
 Christine Radford CC  
 Robert Sharp CC  
 Richard Shepherd CC  
 Leon Spence CC

## Adults and Communities

Ruth Camamile CC (Chairman)  
 Michael Charlesworth CC  
 Stephen Hampson CC  
 David Jennings CC  
 Michael Mullaney CC  
 Betty Newton CC  
 Alan Pearson CC  
 Terry Richardson CC  
 Sean Sheahan CC

## Children and Families

Jackie Dickinson CC  
 Mr. Gerard Hirst  
 Jeffrey Kaufman CC  
 Tony Kershaw CC  
 Leon Spence CC (Chairman)  
 Geoff Welsh CC  
 Heather Worman CC  
 Christine Radford CC  
 Mr. John Perry  
 Trevor Pendleton CC  
 Ozzy O'Shea CC

## Environment and Transport

Iain Bentley CC  
 David Bill MBE CC  
 Bill Boulter CC  
 John Coxon CC  
 Stephen Hampson CC  
 Max Hunt CC  
 David Jennings CC (Chairman)  
 Janice Richards CC  
 Lynton Yates CC

## Health

Ruth Camamile CC  
 Jackie Dickinson CC  
 Dr Terri Eynon CC  
 Dr Kevin Feltham CC  
 Dr Sarah Hill CC (Chairman)  
 Jeffrey Kaufman CC  
 Bill Liquorish JP CC  
 Jewel Miah CC  
 Alan Pearson CC

## Scrutiny Review of Line Speed Improvements at Market Harborough

Max Hunt CC  
 David Jennings CC (Chairman)  
 Jeffrey Kaufman CC  
 Bill Liquorish JP CC  
 Christine Radford CC

## Officers to contact

### **The Scrutiny Commission**

Sam Weston, Principal Committee Officer  
Call: 0116 305 6226  
sam.weston@leics.gov.uk

### **Adults and Communities**

Anna Rog, Committee Officer  
Call: 0116 305 0455  
anna.rog@leics.gov.uk

### **Children and Families**

Francesca Gall, Committee Officer  
Call: 0116 305 3407  
Francesca.gall@leics.gov.uk

### **Environment and Transport**

Ben Holihead, Committee Officer  
Call: 0116 305 6339  
ben.holihead@leics.gov.uk

### **Health**

Euan Walters, Committee Officer  
Call: 0116 305 6016  
euan.walters@leics.gov.uk

*Please contact any of our officers with any issues of concern or areas you feel would benefit from scrutiny in the future.*



[@LeicsDemocracy](https://twitter.com/LeicsDemocracy)

This page is intentionally left blank