

## **Overview and Scrutiny**

Annual Report

2017/18

# 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. This can include workshops and over the last year several of our Overview and Scrutiny Committees have looked at matters in depth through workshop sessions.

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

**For further information about the Overview and Scrutiny process and how you can get involved please visit our website: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/overview-and-scrutiny)**

# Foreword by the Scrutiny Commissioners

**This Annual Report marks the first year in the life of the current Council. New members and new Chairmen of Committees had re-invigorated our efforts to hold the Cabinet to account and to ensure that the County Council's services are delivered effectively and efficiently and that they meet the needs of local people.**

As the challenging financial position faced by the Council continues, we have played a key role in acting as a critical friend to the Cabinet on proposals to review services provided to some of our more vulnerable residents. Where possible we have sought to hear the views of service users and their families and reflect them in our comments to the Cabinet.

In contrast, the emerging focus on economic development in Leicestershire has given us the opportunity to influence proposals for growth such as the Strategic Growth Plan and the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road. We look forward to further opportunities to scrutinise this valuable area of work.

We would like to thank all members of the Council who have been involved in Overview and Scrutiny, including Cabinet members who have attended our meetings and answered our questions. We are also grateful to the outside organisations that have contributed to our scrutiny process during the past year. Officers provide a valuable role in ensuring we are able to do our job and we would like to place on record our appreciation for their support and advice.

We must take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr David Slater CC, Chairman of the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a member of the Scrutiny Commission, who passed away in April of this year. He made a significant contribution to overview and scrutiny and will be sadly missed.

Rather than a complete commentary of everything we have achieved this past year this Annual Report summarises some key highlights of our work during 2017/18. We hope it reflects what we feel has been another productive year in Overview and Scrutiny and that you enjoy reading it. You can of course find out more about our meetings [here](#).



**Terri Eynon CC**



**Simon Galton CC**



**David Jennings CC**



**Rosita Page CC**

*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 merit review by a Scrutiny Panel.*

# 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 Enterprise Partnership (LEEP), 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 and acts as the Council's Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## Highlights

### The Medium Term Financial Strategy

The financial challenges facing local councils, particularly those with social care responsibilities, have been well publicised. Nationally a number of authorities are in serious financial difficulty. In Leicestershire we face similar challenges, compounded by the fact that we are one of the lowest funded authorities. That said, as a result of rigorous financial management and early recognition that we need to address the financial challenge, we are changing and transforming the way we deliver services. This has placed us in a better position than most other councils. We have played our part in scrutinising transformation plans and budget saving proposals. It has been challenging and our approach has been to recognise the need for savings as well as ensuring that the proposals put forward will keep the impact of change as low as possible, particularly for the most vulnerable in our society.

We supported the overall direction of travel for the Council: to focus on economic growth in order to boost the Council Tax base; to reduce borrowing and debt wherever possible; and to generate income through the Corporate Asset Investment Fund. However, despite these efforts to protect frontline services, the level of savings that the Council needs to make will inevitably affect them. Overview and Scrutiny has a continued role in providing a robust check and balance to ensure that the Council is fair and equitable in its provision services and that the services we do provide represent best value.

### Severn Trent Water

We wanted to learn more about Severn Trent Water's approach to managing water supply and demand, its role in supporting housing growth and development and its role in managing flood risk, particularly with regard to sewer flooding. We were pleased that representatives from Severn Trent Water were able to attend our meeting in June and answer our questions. This was a really good experience for the Commission and we fully believe that Severn Trent Water also benefited from it.

The presentations and discussion have given us a greater understanding of the ways in which demand for water can be managed and water efficiency promoted as well as highlighting the importance of partnership working. We have been able to use the information gathered at this meeting to respond to Severn Trent Water's consultation on its Water Resources Management Plan and took this opportunity to re-iterate the need for Severn Trent Water to support the development of sustainable and cost effective technology for households to re-use grey water and harvest rainwater. We emphasised the need for Severn Trent Water to reduce leakage and sought assurance that it is aware of and engaging with the draft Strategic Growth Plan for Leicester and Leicestershire.

### Single Outcomes Framework

We had some concerns when we first looked at the Council's draft Strategic Plan and Single Outcomes Framework. We felt that the Plan lacked detail, especially given its importance in driving the Council's agenda and informing the Medium Term Financial Strategy. Although we supported the outcomes, we felt that they would be defined better as aspirations.

A revised version of the Strategic Plan and Single Outcomes Framework came back to us later in the year and we were pleased to note that our comments and concerns had been taken into account. In particular, we welcomed the introduction of a performance framework with measurable outcomes to support delivery of the Plan.

### Strategic Growth Plan

We had a long and well-informed debate about the draft Strategic Growth Plan. As well as seeking to understand the content of the Plan, we heard from the City Council, local NHS and our own Department of Environment and Transport on how the Strategic Growth Plan would affect them and inform their work. We also received written representations from the Campaign to Protect Rural England, Shelter Housing Aid and Research Project and the Public Health Department.

We were broadly supportive of the principle of having a Strategic Growth Plan as we felt this would prevent unplanned growth which damaged the character of local areas and lacked infrastructure. Some of us expressed reservations that the Plan was heavily dependent on infrastructure and the East Midlands did not have a strong record of attracting funding for major infrastructure projects. We felt that a long term vision would benefit the local area.

We were generally supportive of the proposed locations for strategic growth, noting that without significant investment there would be pressures on the transport network. Given the high-level nature of the Plan, we felt that it would be important to have ongoing consultation and engagement with elected members, especially as plans move closer to delivery and detail is added to proposals. In the comments we submitted to the Cabinet we emphasised the importance of accessible and affordable new housing developments which are near to facilities and places of employment.

# Adults and Communities

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

## Highlights

### Delayed Transfers of Care (DTC)

After a lengthy national delay, technical guidance was published by NHS England including new requirements for improving delayed transfers of care. At that time, the Council and all local NHS partners had agreed plans to achieve the NHS target for DTCs by March 2018 and the Plan was on target to deliver early in 2018. However, NHS England changed the target date to November 2017. We recognised that there was a risk that we could be subject to a Care Quality Commission review and potentially face a withdrawal of funding if we failed to implement improvements. We expressed concern at the position adopted by NHS England, which seemed to pay no regard to the circumstances prevailing locally.

Although the revised target was not reached by November, there has been a reduction in the number of delays and NHS England has confirmed that Leicestershire will not be subject to a withdrawal of funding. Performance continues to improve and a report on the end of year position is due to be presented to us in June.

We thanked the staff involved for the significant amount of work they had undertaken to get to the current figures.

### Reconfiguration of In-House Learning Disability Residential Accommodation

In March 2018, we received a report concerning proposals to close Hamilton Court Residential Home, the Smith Crescent Short break service in Coalville and the reconfiguration of The Trees residential care home from a long stay to a short breaks facility. This was primarily due to the fact that the buildings were no longer felt to be fit for purpose. This is a very emotive issue and, understandably, we received a number of representations from relatives of residents of The Trees urging the Committee to reconsider the proposed closure of long term stays.

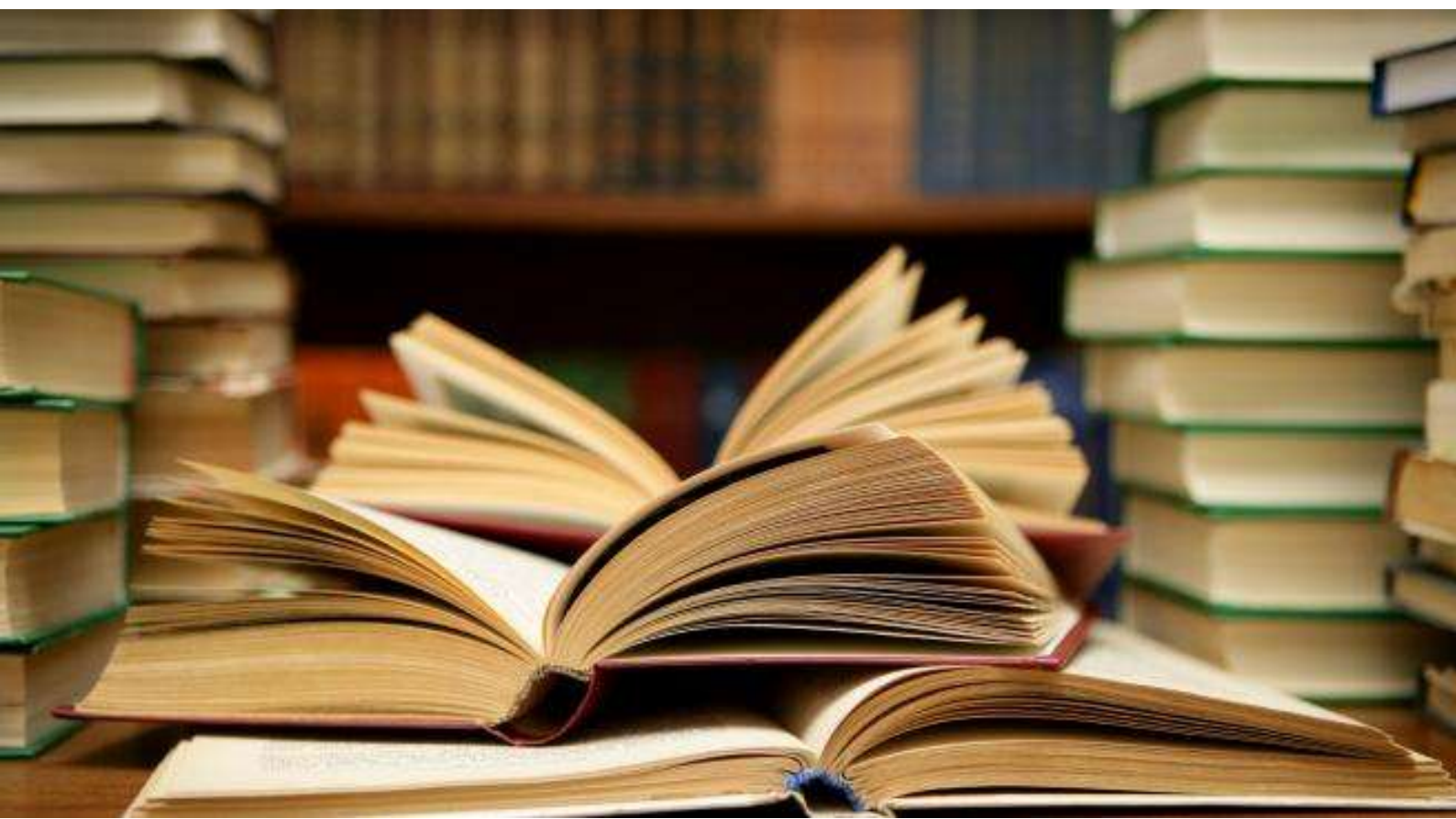
We recognised the anxiety this has caused amongst service users. Change is always difficult but we were reassured by the Director of Adults and Communities and the Cabinet Lead Member who gave a commitment to undertake a reassessment of the needs of the current residents at The Trees and Hamilton Court , having regard to the friendships and relationships that have been built up over the years. We also welcomed the proposal to reinvest some of the resources released by the proposed reconfiguration into respite and short breaks.

### Communities and Wellbeing Strategy

The work undertaken to implement the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020 has included SMART library technology, a Collections Hub, the Green Plaque Scheme, Care Online, the mobile library service, the Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Century Theatre.

We were interested in the positive results of the SMART library pilot at Syston Library and supported the decision to implement full SMART library technology at 16 market town and shopping centre libraries as this will mean longer opening hours. It was also pleasing to note the intention to continue with the mobile library service as part of the Council's commitment to providing a comprehensive library service although we suggested that a review should be undertaken of the current routes to ensure the most efficient service was being provided.

A suggestion was made that the Art in Schools collections should form part of the Communities and Wellbeing Strategy and we recommended the Cabinet to approve a further review of the arts collections to consolidate the collection and achieve efficiency savings. The Cabinet approved our recommendation and the outcome of the review will be the subject of a future report.



# Children and Families

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee looks at issues around social service provision for children and families, educational attainment at 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 programme.

## Highlights

### Ofsted

We have continued to work with the Department and Cabinet Lead Member in the development of the Continuous Improvement Action Plan following the Ofsted Inspection last year and have monitored service delivery to ensure that the required improvements are delivered in services to children and young people. We welcomed the additional funding of £2.5m during 2018/19 to support the delivery of the Action Plan, as we recognise that the recruitment and retention of children's social care staff will be integral to its success. We will continue to support the Department in delivery of the Recruitment and Retention Strategy and look forward to seeing the results achieved.

### Maplewell Hall Special School

In a robust debate at our November meeting, we considered the proposals to remove the residential facilities at Maplewell Hall Special School, with effect from September 2018. We received representations from parents and staff at the school as well as a petition containing 11,592 signatures. Whilst we acknowledged that difficult decisions need to be made in light of limited budgets, we advised the Cabinet that we recognised the benefits of the residential provision at Maplewell Hall School and felt that further clarity was needed regarding the costs and alternatives available before closure of the facilities was approved.

As the petition contained more than 10,000 signatures, this issue was also considered by Council at its meeting in December. The Cabinet, after consideration, agreed to pursue the preferred option to close the facilities at Maplewell Hall Special School. However, we were pleased to hear that further support would be given to those pupils who have made use of the residential facilities and their families in the period leading up to the closure.



## Early Support and Inclusion for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

At our meeting in November, we received a report on the plan for delivery of Early Support and Inclusion Services for Children with SEND post-December 2017. We noted that the service would be brought in-house, and would be handled by staff with a high level of expertise in this area. We were assured that service delivery would be enhanced by services already delivered by the Department and were pleased that a robust communications plan had been developed to ensure that all parents of children using the current service would be aware of the change to service delivery and of the future support available.

## Performance

We have continued to receive regular updates on performance across the service throughout the year and were pleased with the significant progress that has been made in reducing the number of children who became subject to a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time. We welcomed the progress that has been made in improving the processes to support children when they came off a plan and the increased management oversight in ensuring quality of delivery across the service.

## Fostering and Adoption Service

Following concerns we raised last year, we welcomed the good progress being made in developing and expanding the in-house fostering service to ensure that demand can be met and, where possible, the use of more costly Independent Fostering Agencies reduced. We were pleased that the Children and Families Service is confident of meeting growth targets.

## Review of the Early Help Service

We commented on the proposed changes to the Early Help Service at our meeting in March this year. We received representations from 'Save our Children's Centres Leicestershire' and a petition concerning the closure of Cobden Sure Start Centre containing 204 signatures. We welcomed the fact that, under the proposals, the hub and spoke buildings would be located in the areas of high density of early help users and that alternative uses are being explored for buildings that would no longer be used by the County Council. We will continue to scrutinise this area to ensure that the consultation has been robust and look forward to considering the proposals put forward post consultation.

# 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

### Melton Mowbray Distributor Road

At our meeting in December, we were particularly pleased to consider the proposals for a significant road building project - the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road. We welcomed the extensive public consultation that had been undertaken throughout the initial planning stage and the level of support for the proposed route. We supported the submission of a bid to the Department for Transport and welcomed the joint working with Melton Borough Council in the funding of this road scheme. We look forward to receiving a further report on this in the summer of 2018.

### Environmental Performance Report 2016-17 and Greenhouse Gas Report 2016-17

There has been a 37% reduction in CO2 emissions from Leicestershire County Council buildings compared to the baseline year and current performance now exceeds the target set for 2020/21. We were pleased that officers are now seeking creative solutions, including working with partners and volunteers, to improve the quality of the Sites of Scientific Interest as resources were not previously available to address the improvements needed.

### Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Mainstream Home to School Transport Policies

We had two debates regarding the proposed changes to the SEN and mainstream home to school transport policies. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Spokesmen from the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee joined us for the latter discussion and received representations from parents of children with SEN and disabilities who would be affected by the proposals. We considered the three options for generating savings which were set out in the report. Some of our members expressed reservations regarding each of the proposals. However, the majority recognised that difficult decisions needed to be made

in order to deliver services with reduced funding. We were pleased to see that changes had been made to the final proposals which reflected some of our views and those received during the consultation. We will work with the Department and the Cabinet Lead Member on the implementation of these proposals.

### Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan (HIAMP)

At our meeting in September, we contributed to the development of the HIAMP. Despite being the lowest funded Authority nationally, we have one of the best road networks, which places us in a good starting position to deal with reducing resources in the future. By setting out firmer and clearer standards for roads and other highways we are likely to qualify for a higher level of government support in the future, which is vital to maintaining the quality of our assets. We look forward to the development of detailed Operational Highways Maintenance Procedures over the next 12-18 months to support delivery of the HIAMP which will help us to target scarce resources and achieve value for money.

### Road Casualties

Following our concerns last year regarding the number of road casualties on our roads, we have kept a watching brief on this issue, including through an all member briefing. We were pleased to hear that the measures put in place had improved performance from a “red” to an “amber” rating. Additionally, the quality of the report assured us that the Department would continue to monitor the situation closely. We were, however, concerned that the change in the reporting of collisions by the Police may impact on the accuracy of the road casualty data. We hope that the outcome of the Department for Transport’s consultation on the reporting of accidents will address our concerns.



# 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

### Emergency Department at Leicester Royal Infirmary

We scrutinised the impact that the new Emergency Department at Leicester Royal Infirmary, which opened on 26 April 2017, has had on ambulance handovers and the flow of patients through the hospital. We were told that the number of patients the Emergency Department deals with within the 4 hour target has slightly improved. However, much remains to be done, in particular improvements are needed to processes and timeliness, particularly with regard to the interface between the Emergency Department and the admitting wards in the Hospital. We have asked for communication between hospital departments to be improved and will monitor progress in the coming year.

### Winter Pressures

In November 2017 we reviewed the plans which were in place to deal with the expected increase in demand at University Hospitals Leicester (UHL) over the 2017/18 winter period. Towards the end of the winter we assessed the success of those plans and the impact of the emergency measures which had been put in place, such as the cancelling of elective procedures. It was disappointing that, despite the winter plans, UHL struggled to meet the demand; however, we understood that the greater than expected increase in flu and respiratory type illnesses over the winter period was a contributory factor. We have sought further reassurances that the elective procedures and cancer treatments which were cancelled will be rescheduled quickly and also asked to see the results of the UHL review into the cancellation of cancer operations.

### Non-Emergency Patient Transfer Service

On 1 October 2017 Thames Ambulance Service Limited (TASL) became the new provider of the Non-Emergency Patient Transfer Service. Shortly after taking over we became aware of issues with the new service, such as long delays or cancellations of transport. We sought

assurances from the commissioners of the service that plans were in place to address these concerns. On reviewing the position after a few months, we were pleased that improvements had been made but asked for further reassurance regarding the long term financial stability of TASL and the level of support from its parent company. This was subsequently received and we were advised that the same issue had been addressed at an NHS England Financial Summit and no concerns were identified.

## GP Practices in the North Blaby area

In 2017 we became aware of capacity and staffing issues at some GP Practices in the North Blaby area of Leicestershire and requested a briefing from East Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group (ELRCCG) on the problems which had arisen and how they would be addressed. It became apparent that succession planning had been an issue at some practices in addition to the problems of a rising population and limitations on expansion of buildings. At our meetings in September 2017 and January 2018 we gained reassurance that the CCG was working with the GP Practices to ensure the sustainability of the services and that funding was available to address staffing and estates problems. It was particularly pleasing that consideration was being given by ELRCCG to the provision of Primary Care health services across the whole North Blaby area rather than focusing on individual areas in isolation.

## Settings of Care Policies

In 2017, both Clinical Commissioning Groups in Leicestershire reviewed their Settings of Care Policies. These policies relate to those people eligible to have continuing healthcare costs met by the NHS and are used to determine how and when the CCGs will support individual choice of care setting. ELRCCG set its threshold at 10% over the anticipated cost of the most cost effective care package. West Leicestershire CCG (WLCCG) felt that an impact analysis was needed before a decision was taken. We had some concerns about the different approaches from the two CCGs and asked WLCCG to come back once the analysis was completed. We are pleased that WLCCG has retained the original threshold of 25%, finding that the 10% threshold would result in only modest financial savings and minimal impact on patients. We have strongly recommended that ELRCCG carry out a similar impact assessment.

## Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

We have looked at the plans which are in place for an in-patient unit for Specialist Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Leicester. We are pleased that the unit is to be permanently based at purpose built accommodation at Glenfield Hospital though we sought reassurance that the funding for this project was secure. We also explored the issues around waiting times for a CAMHS appointment and gained reassurance that patients

were monitored whilst awaiting an appointment and if their condition deteriorated they were dealt with sooner than planned.

### Glenfield Heart Unit

The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee met in the summer to agree its response to the national consultation on the future of Congenital Heart Disease Services for children and adults in England. NHS England was proposing to cease commissioning these services from the Glenfield Hospital.

To help inform our response, we heard passionate representations from parents whose children had been treated at the Glenfield Heart Unit. We also heard from a range of local stakeholders. It was telling that everyone spoke in support of the Unit, which had received an “outstanding” rating from the Care Quality Commission.

Our strongly worded response to the consultation highlighted that the standards had not been applied in a fair and equitable manner; that there was a lack of scientific research and evidence base to support the standards; and that the University Hospitals of Leicester had put forward a robust growth plan to enable it to meet the only standard with which it did not currently comply, that of having four surgeons each performing 125 procedures a year.

We were delighted with the outcome of the consultation. The Glenfield Children’s Heart Unit will remain open, provided that full compliance with the standards is achieved. We will continue to monitor the plans put in place by the University Hospitals of Leicester to ensure that the standards are met.



## Workshops

Workshops provide an informal setting for Overview and Scrutiny Committee members to consider issues in greater depth. They work well for issues where a range of external stakeholders are attending or where the primary purpose is information gathering rather than formally scrutinising a proposal.

### Poverty and Inclusion Services

The Scrutiny Commission, over the course of two workshops, has thoroughly examined issues around poverty such as the impact of Welfare Reform, homelessness, debt, how work on economic development can address poverty and the work of the Church. The latter was included as the Bishop's Poverty Commission report, published in 2016, had initially caused us to become interested in this issue.

The key themes arising from our discussions were the importance of partnership working and co-ordination, including data sharing, the valuable role of prevention and early intervention services and the need to support people into employment as a key mechanism for helping people to move out of poverty. We learnt that the emerging Local Industrial Strategy will promote a move away from low skilled/low paid employment and promote the development of sectors such as advanced logistics, space, life sciences and advanced textiles. We will use the knowledge gained from these workshops to inform our comments on the Local Industrial Strategy when we consider it later in the year.

### Reducing Offending by Adults

The Scrutiny Commission held a workshop on reducing offending by adults following concerns being raised with members about the impact of the changes to the probation service introduced through Transforming Rehabilitation, the government's programme for managing offenders in England and Wales, which has been in place since February 2015.

Representatives from the County Council, Police, National Probation Services and Community Rehabilitation Company attended the workshop and we were also pleased to welcome Lord Bach, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Ivan Ould, the Cabinet Lead Member.

We concluded that local partnership arrangements are good, although the changes to the probation service have inevitably caused some challenges. We recognised the need for the police and probation services to adapt to the changing nature of crime and the increase of serious organised crime, domestic abuse and knife crime. We were particularly interested in the importance of supporting offenders with mental health problems and felt that links between probation, housing and mental health needed developing. We were also concerned that there seems to be limited mental health support in custodial settings. We will follow up our concerns relating to the mental health of offenders with a report to the Scrutiny Commission in the coming year.

### Supported Living

The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held a workshop on Supported Living. We learnt Supported Living accommodation benefits both the individual, as a more personalised alternative to residential care, and the County Council, as a lower cost alternative. There is currently a waiting list for supported living accommodation and further demand expected from population growth and the desire to reduce use of residential and hospital placements. Additional funding has been included in the budget to support capital investment to increase the supply of accommodation in the county, most likely under County Council ownership.





## Looking Ahead to 2018/19

As we continue to negotiate our way through challenging financial times, we will need to ensure that we continue to provide a robust check and balance on key policy issues and hold our Cabinet colleagues to account. We are keen to become better at hearing the voice of frontline staff as well as the voice of service users and their families, especially when we look at issues which will have an impact on their lives.

### Scrutiny Commission

The Scrutiny Commission will keep a watching brief on the Council's fair funding campaign and maintain its oversight of the Council's budget and finances. We will continue to focus on economic development through looking at the opportunities presented by the emerging Local Industrial Strategy. Following the Grenfell Tower disaster last year we are also keen to ensure that resilience and emergency planning arrangements are robust. In our role as Crime and Disorder Committee we are also looking forward to hearing about the work of the Police and Crime Panel.

### Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be looking to receive reports on the outcome of the consultation around the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Carer's Strategy, progress on Smart Library implementation, and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Living Well with Dementia Strategy 2019-2022. We are also due to receive the results of the consultation around the Reconfiguration of In-House Learning Disability Residential Accommodation prior to a decision being made by the Cabinet.

### Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Over the past year the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committees has looked at and commented on a number of challenging policy decisions, which the Cabinet has had to make in the light of the Department's financial position. We will seek to ensure that there are no unintended consequences arising from these decisions and that the transition into the redesigned services is smooth. We will also continue to monitor delivery of the Ofsted Continuous Improvement Action Plan, which is key to ensuring that quality of services is at the forefront of everyone's mind.

## Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee will continue to consider and scrutinise the development of the proposals for the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road.

We will also consider the Revised Environment Strategy, contribute to the consultation on the review of parking charges, will receive an update on the revised funding methodology for community transport provision and look forward to scrutinising the final draft Passenger Transport Policy, including Community Bus Partnerships, following consultation.

## Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee intends to continue scrutinising the Director of Public Health and will feed into his consultation on the proposed model for an integrated lifestyle service.

We will also continue to monitor performance at UHL and in particular the Emergency Department. We will be interested whether lessons learned from the winter of 2017/18 can improve capacity issues for the following winter. We also intend to ensure that concerns raised regarding patient care at the Bradgate Unit at Glenfield Hospital will be addressed.

## Overview and Scrutiny in Numbers: 2017/18



## Training

**Training can help equip members of Overview and Scrutiny Committees with the skills, knowledge and confidence to challenge effectively, and support organisational improvement.**

As part of our commitment to ensuring the quality of our scrutiny function, we arranged a training session for the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of our Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The training session took place in November and was facilitated by one of the Expert Advisors from the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

We concentrated particularly on developing effective questioning and chairing skills for Overview and Scrutiny. Both of these are essential to good scrutiny. We were reminded of the need to be focused in our questions and to develop key lines of enquiry before the meeting. As leaders, our role is not just about managing the meetings and understanding the motivations of different members on the Committee, but also about promoting the role of scrutiny and developing good working relationships with a range of stakeholders.

Following the training session, the Scrutiny Commissioners identified a number of areas to follow up. Chairmen and Spokesmen now keep track of the work of each Scrutiny Committee through an action, so we can more clearly see the impact that we are having. We have also revised our guide to asking questions at Overview and Scrutiny Committees to make it simpler and more 'member friendly'.

Finally, through the Scrutiny Commissioners we have undertaken a peer evaluation of our Scrutiny Chairmen. The findings of this evaluation were positive, with our Chairmen feeling confident that they have the right skills and support to do their job effectively.

# Overview and Scrutiny Members

2017/18

## The Scrutiny Commission

David Bill MBE, CC  
 Lee Breckon JP CC  
 Michael Charlesworth CC  
 Dr Terri Eynon CC  
 Simon Galton CC (Chairman)  
 David Jennings CC  
 Rosita Page CC  
 Alan Pearson CC  
 Terry Richardson CC  
 Brenda Seaton CC  
 David Slater CC

## Children and Families

Dr Paul Bremner CC  
 Mr. Gerard Hirst  
 Jeffrey Kaufman CC  
 Canon Carolyn Lewis  
 Rosita Page CC  
 Brenda Seaton CC (Chairman)\*  
 Sean Sheahan CC  
 Deborah Taylor CC  
 Geoff Welsh CC  
 Amanda Wright CC

## Adults and Communities

Dr Paul Bremner CC  
 Linda Broadley CC  
 Michael Charlesworth CC  
 Hilary Fryer CC  
 David Jennings CC  
 Bill Liquorish JP CC  
 Jewel Miah CC  
 Ted Parton CC  
 Terry Richardson CC (Chairman)

## Environment and Transport

Iain Bentley CC  
 David Bill MBE, CC  
 Bill Boulter CC  
 Dr Paul Bremner CC  
 John Coxon CC  
 Max Hunt CC  
 Alan Pearson CC  
 James Poland CC  
 David Slater CC (Chairman)\*\*

## Health

Peter Bedford CC  
 Lee Breckon JP CC (Chairman)  
 Hilary Fryer CC  
 Dean Gamble CC  
 Amanda Hack CC  
 Dr Sarah Hill CC  
 Ted Parton CC  
 Deborah Taylor CC

\* Louise Richardson CC was Chairman of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee until February when she became a member of the Cabinet

\*\*As referenced in the foreword to this report, David Slater CC sadly passed away in April 2018





## Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

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Democratic Services

Chief Executive's Department

Leicestershire County Council

For further details on the contents of this report please email: [democracy@leics.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@leics.gov.uk)