



# Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19

# 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.**

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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 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 sums up a varied and, dare we say it, exciting year for the overview and scrutiny process. All of our Committees have been busy and, as the highlights show, we have been scrutinising issues across the whole range of services provided by the County Council. The level of public interest in our work has also been positive and on a number of occasions we have received petitions and heard representations from members of the public, a valuable part of our role.**

We are rightly proud of our scrutiny of the County Council's proposals for a unitary structure for local government in Leicestershire. Producing a report of our deliberations, which was well received by the Cabinet, is definitely a positive outcome, as is the use of new technology and approaches to get the best out of the scrutiny process.

We pioneered the use of skype in a public meeting and were able to hear the views and experiences of the Leader of Cornwall Council via video conference whilst he remained in the comfort of his own office! We don't often invite external witnesses to our Scrutiny meetings but we used this approach to good effect through our scrutiny of the unitary proposals and were able to learn a lot from the Leaders of existing unitary councils. This is a scrutiny technique we will look to make greater use of in the coming years.

Elsewhere, we have continued to hold our Cabinet colleagues to account for the performance and delivery of services within their portfolios. As usual, we are grateful to them for attending our meetings and answering our questions. Similarly, we would like to place on record our appreciation for the support and advice of officers, who play a valuable role in supporting us and making sure we are able to do our job.

This Annual Report is not a complete commentary of everything we have achieved this past year; rather it is a summary of some key highlights of our work during 2018/19. We hope it reflects what we feel has been a really productive year in Overview and Scrutiny and that you enjoy reading it. You can of course find out more about our meetings [here](#).



Simon Galton CC



Peter Bedford CC



Terri Eynon 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.**

# 1.

## 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 (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 and acts as the Council's Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

### Highlights

#### **Proposals for a unitary structure of local government for Leicestershire**

The Scrutiny Commission's agenda this year was dominated by our review of the County Council's proposals for a unitary structure of local government for Leicestershire. We met four times between 14 November and 15 January to examine these proposals and heard from a range of external witnesses who kindly gave up their time to come and talk about their experiences, including the Leaders of three existing county unitary authorities and two of the Leicestershire district councils. We are pleased that Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council attended all of our meetings; their input was invaluable. We are also grateful to the individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees, which each considered the proposals from the perspective of their service area and reported their findings to us.

It is a matter of regret that we were unable to hear from unitary authorities that had run into difficulties, although officers had undertaken a desktop exercise and were able to assure us that unitary authorities were less likely to run into financial difficulties and, when they did, these difficulties were less serious.

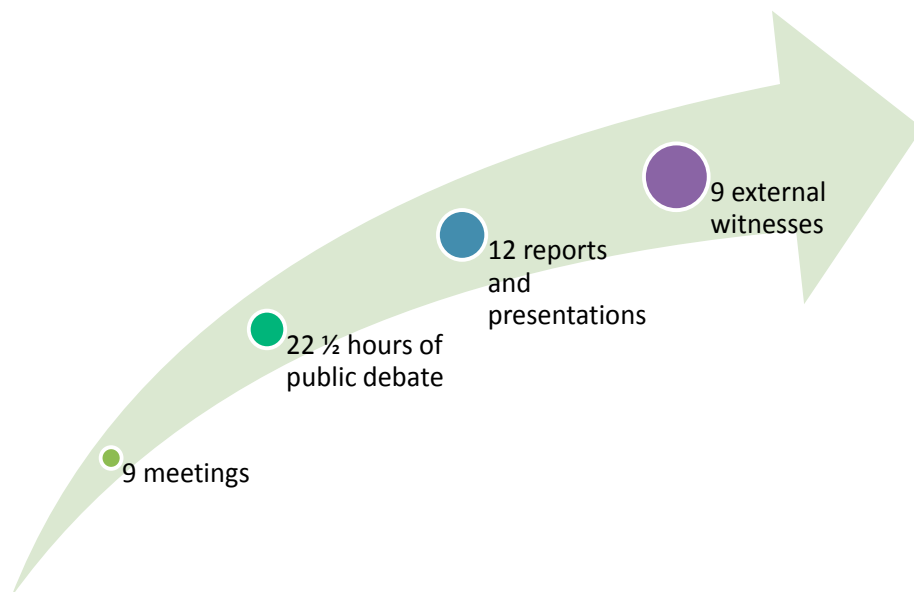
We set out our findings in a report to the Cabinet; we chose not to come to a view on the matter but rather to set out the views and concerns of members and suggestions of issues that the Cabinet and officers preparing the business case might wish to reflect on.

We recognised that there is a need for change and highlighted to the Cabinet the need for any business case to be clear, particularly with regard to how the service model will work. We also requested a clear framework for devolution to Parish and Town Councils and support arrangements in place to enable delivery of more local services.

There was general agreement that, if the proposal was to be pursued, a single unitary council would make the most sense financially and for the delivery of services currently provided by the County Council. This view was not expressed by all members of the Commission.

We submitted our report to the Cabinet on 29 March and were pleased to be commended by the Cabinet for our detailed consideration of the issues, recognising that our input would add value to the formation of the business case. Officers were requested to have regard to our views when drafting the business case. We look forward to scrutinising it during 2019/20.

## Scrutiny of the Unitary Proposals – in numbers



## Medium Term Financial Strategy

This year we strengthened our approach to scrutiny of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) through the consideration of savings under development, which were highlighted to us in September. We recognise that not all of the proposals will ultimately appear in the MTFS as, for example, they might fail the business case appraisal or need further investigation. However, we welcome the greater transparency and assurance that this provides for us.

In January, we and the Overview and Scrutiny Committees gave our usual detailed consideration to the MTFS. We are understandably concerned that the biggest feature of the next four years is uncertainty, with both the next Comprehensive Spending Review and the outcome of the Fair Funding Review expected during 2019/20. Consequently, there is a lack of clarity beyond 2020 regarding the future of grant funding or the limits on council tax increases. We will continue to monitor the position and to support the principles of fair funding. We are pleased to note that, despite the uncertainty and significant pressures on the budget for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, the Council is projecting a break even position for the next two financial years.

## Strategic Growth Plan

We welcomed the opportunity to comment on the final draft of the Strategic Growth Plan, having in the previous year commented as part of the public consultation. We recognise the significance of this Plan, which puts in place a long term strategy for the future development and prosperity of Leicester and Leicestershire. It is therefore very important that we get it right. We raised a number of issues, including the response rate to the consultation, the advisability of further growth in areas currently experiencing congestion, the impact of development elsewhere in the country and the need to consider transport issues and green space in more detail at Local Plan level. We also emphasised the importance of keeping the Strategic Growth Plan under review.

## Corporate Asset Investment Fund

The County Council's Capital Programme is the largest it has ever been, so it is important that we monitor its performance and direction of travel. We emphasised the importance of considering risk on a case by case basis, particularly given the need to be flexible in responding to changes in the market. We are pleased that advice on such matters is sought from external specialists.

We welcomed the focus in the revised Corporate Asset Investment Fund Strategy on investment in Leicestershire for the benefit of Leicestershire residents. We heard about the proposed use of the Fund to develop new or existing assets to meet Council service needs, where this will reduce operating costs. We will be interested to monitor how this develops.



# 2.

## 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

#### CareOnLine Service

In June, we considered a proposal to decommission the CareOnLine service, along with two petitions objecting to the proposal and representations from individual service users. These emphasised our concern that any alternative service would not provide the support required by CareOnLine users. As a result, the Lead Member for Adults and Communities agreed to consider what provision would be missing if CareOnLine was decommissioned and whether an alternative provider could fill the gaps.

In March 2019, following the decision to decommission the CareOnLine service, we received an update on progress with supporting existing users and alternative organisations. Two representatives from Enrych attended our meeting. This charity has been successful in securing funding of £300,000 from the Big Lottery to support the delivery of Enrych Connect, a digital service for people with physical and learning disabilities, which would replace CareOnLine for the next three years. The County Council has also created a transitional fund of £10,000 per year for two years; Enrych Connect has used this to engage the staff who formerly worked for CareOnLine. We were pleased to note that there had been a smooth transition to the new service.

All existing CareOnLine service users have been able to keep the equipment that they had been using this is largely recycled IT equipment which had no value to the County Council. Enrych Connect is currently being charged £20 for each laptop received from the County Council, and we have asked officers to explore the possibility of this charge being removed.

#### Draft Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Living Well with Dementia Strategy 2019-2022

As part of our consideration of the consultation on the Living Well with Dementia Strategy, we requested that a specific meeting was held with people affected by early onset dementia. The feedback they gave was very similar to that given by other respondents, although they raised specific points around more flexibility in the use of direct payments, support for balance issues, alternatives to residential care, and more information and advice around finances and how to live healthy and well.

We expressed concern around training and development for the social care workforce, and agreed that every effort should be made to retain as much funding as possible to provide this. Engagement had taken place with the sector to seek their views on what could be offered and it was felt that dementia and mental health training around older people would be a priority.

### **Capital Investment into Adult Social Care Accommodation Based Support Services**

We fully supported the proposals to develop a capital investment plan for adult social care accommodation based support services. The outline business case details the total investment based on needs assessment as approximately £200m. It is not yet clear where this money would come from but it would be a mix of contributions from developers, providers and the County Council. Five proposed development sites were detailed in the report and we were informed that no single model will be developed for how these are operated.

We sought assurance that the issue of providing care would be included in the investment proposal to emphasise that this was the principle behind the work being undertaken.



### **Collections and Learning Hub and Museum Service Collections**

In March 2019, we received a report giving an update on proposals to develop a Collections and Learning Hub. We expressed disappointment that the Cabinet had approved a provision within the Capital Programme of £10m to facilitate the relocation of the Record Office to the County Hall campus and to develop a Collections and Learning Hub in the existing Eastern Annex building at County Hall without prior consultation with our Committee. A full business case is being developed for Phase 1 of the proposal, and we will have the opportunity to comment on this prior to approval being given by the Cabinet.

We commented that the County Hall campus is not a central, easily accessible location for the Record Office and that the difficulty with parking will discourage members of the public visiting the Hub. We have been given assurance that any issues with the proposed location, and particularly with the parking at County Hall, will be given full consideration when developing the business case.



# 3.

## 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 Continuous Improvement Action Plan 2017-20**

Following the single inspection of Children's Social Care in November 2016, we have received regular reports highlighting the progress made against the Ofsted Continuous Improvement Action Plan.

The recruitment and retention of staff has been a major challenge, in particular experienced social workers and the continued use of agency staff. We were disappointed that the report we received in June did not directly address this issue, but were assured that it would be contained in future updates. This has been the case and, as at the end of the 2018/19 municipal year, we are pleased that the overall picture is improving whilst also noting that it remains a key area of challenge.

In November, we received the outcome from the Ofsted Focused Visit, which identified steady and realistic improvements in relation to the First Response service, along with a number of positive outcomes. Five areas for improvement had been identified in the inspection and we received assurance that these were being undertaken.

We are content that, in general, progress is being made against all the recommendations in the Ofsted Action Plan, and that we will continue to receive further regular updates.

#### **Early Help Review – Family Wellbeing Service**

The Cabinet, in July 2018, approved a reduction in the number of Children's Centres from 36 to 18 and created an integrated family and wellbeing service for 0-19 years. Prior to this decision, we considered the matter and received a petition and representations from members of the public. We welcomed the extra funding that had been found and were pleased that concerns raised during the consultation period had been taken into account in the development of the final proposal. We also received assurance that a robust model was being put in place to continue to support those with disabilities travelling to a Children's Centre and to identify the future use for buildings which would no longer be used by the service. We supported the proposals and agreed that they would ensure targeted help for vulnerable children and enable the service to support Leicestershire families in the future.

We considered the evaluation of Early Help Services in March 2019. There were some notable success factors around the progress made by a large percentage of families

with complex problems and the positive impact this has had on reducing the number of families requiring specialist intervention from social work teams. There were also areas for development, for example we were informed that work was taking place across the department to consider the training required for staff to ensure early interventions were taking place. We raised concern that district councils were no longer contributing to the pooled budget for the Supporting Leicestershire Families programme and suggested that a discussion should take place around the possibility of them re-engaging financially.

We noted with concern that the national Troubled Families funding is due to end in November 2020 and there is uncertainty around the future funding of the programme, with the potential for a shortfall of £2.3m in the early help services. This is likely to lead to a reduction in the workforce which could create additional costs due to a greater number of families developing more complex needs which require social care intervention.

### **Early Support and Inclusion for Children with SEND**

Following the decision in 2017 to bring the SEN Early Help Service in-house, we considered the current early support offer to families where a child has special educational needs and/ or disability. It is pleasing that parents had been heavily involved in shaping the offer and we were informed of the intention to involve parents in the quality assurance and monitoring of progress of the new contract. Early indications are showing that the new service is a success. We welcomed the positive feedback and the fact that the service had been brought in-house but look forward to receiving further detail on parent's feedback and the views of young people at a future meeting.



### **School Admissions and Appeals in Leicestershire**

We raised concern around the cost of transport for getting children to a school which was more than two miles from their home. Particular concern was also raised around the large housing development being built in Oadby and the fact that there was no guarantee that children in this area would be offered a place at their local school. Many of the schools in Leicestershire were academies, which limited the control the local authority had on the school's admission arrangements. The Lead Member for Children and Families expressed his concern that academies had so much autonomy and the fact that the local authority had no control over the admission process for academies negated its role in pupil place planning. The Lead Member has since written to the Department for Education expressing the County Council's concerns over the admission criteria.

# 4.

## 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

#### Review of Highway Gully Cleansing

We received an update on how the changes to the Gully Emptying cleansing operation were progressing. The trial had found that external contractors, whilst cheaper, operated on a bonus payment, with the result that contractors could cut corners rather than spend time on an issue that could be resolved, thereby passing costs on to the Council. We were assured that the reactive gully team would remain in house and would deal quickly with any issues raised outside of the maintenance schedule, which would be far more cost effective than paying contractors for ad hoc work. Members were also pleased to note that the Department was extending its use of digital technology to build a better understanding of the issues with gullies. We were interested to see how in the future such information could be used to automatically inform communities of the gully cleansing programme of works, as had been done with the grass cutting system.

#### Revised Environment Strategy

We were pleased to receive the Draft Environment Strategy which set out six broad themes. We were happy to note that the Council had already started work to reduce single-use plastics within the Council and noted that the strategy would ensure Departments were working together to facilitate the Council moving towards becoming Carbon Neutral with sustainable economic development whilst working to improve the health and wellbeing of people. We were pleased that after our comments the vision statement of the Strategy was reworded and shortened.

#### Waste Disposal Authority Plan

In September we received the Council's Waste Disposal Authority Plan, which set out the strategic direction up to 2030 and ensured that our Waste Disposal Authority functions would continue to be delivered effectively ahead of a full review of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy and greater clarity from government following consultation on various aspects of the future national strategy and legislation. Whilst we were disappointed that the Committee would not be able to consider each response to the national consultations, we agreed that the Chairman and Spokesmen of the Committee would receive the County Council's responses for comment. We noted that some of the proposals in the new national strategy could potentially reverse decisions that had been made, such as ending food waste

collections. However we were reassured that the Council would be keeping an active watch on the situation as it developed. We agreed that it was prudent that the review of the Municipal Waste Management Strategy should wait until the Government's final position was known.

### **Passenger Transport Policy**

At our meetings in July and October 2018 we considered the draft Passenger Transport Policy and Strategy. While concern was expressed at the level of savings required in the area, the majority of members recognised that difficult decisions needed to be made in order to deliver a more efficient, environmentally friendly service with the Department's reduced funding. We recognised that while some traditional bus services ran on regular patterns and routes that were commutable and familiar to people, they were also unviable and in these circumstances were longer sustainable. We were pleased that the Department was visiting and talking to communities to work with them on what would replace 'at risk' bus services and to introduce them to services such as Demand Response Transport. We look forward to working with the Department and the Cabinet Lead Member on the implementation of the policy going forward.

We were also pleased to note that the County Council was undertaking a major piece of work to refresh the Council's Section 106 policy and hoped that this would enable Section 106 contributions to be sought to enable transport for new developments.

### **Road Casualties**

Following previous years' concerns regarding the number of casualties on our roads, we have kept a watching brief on this issue, including at our meeting in March. We were pleased to receive such a comprehensive report but were concerned with the high level of cyclists who were 'killed and seriously injured'. We were assured that the Department would monitor the situation closely and look forward to receiving further reports on the subject in the future.

We also received an update to the change in the Police's reporting procedures and were concerned to note that there was a 17% fall in reporting of accidents due to the new procedures. However, we were interested to note the introduction of the Police's newly implemented self-reporting tool that we hope will gather information on non-injury accidents that would have otherwise have been missed. We look forward to receiving further information on the scheme when the data has been analysed.



# 5.

## 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

#### **Management Structure of Clinical Commissioning Groups**

We scrutinised proposals for the future management structure of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The initial proposals comprised the appointment of a single accountable officer and the creation of a shared management team for the CCGs, whilst retaining the individual organisations and their governing bodies. We had concerns about this model as a permanent solution and were therefore pleased to receive an update later in the year which advised that, whilst the initial proposals were being taken forward, the CCGs had also agreed to consider the potential benefits of a legal merger. We will continue to scrutinise these proposals.

#### **Community Health Services in Ashby and Hinckley and Bosworth**

During the year we reviewed the provision of Community Health Services in both Ashby and the Hinckley and Bosworth area. Our work regarding Ashby focused on the impact of the closure of Ashby Hospital in 2016 and whether adequate medical services were now available to local residents in the area. We were aware of the concerns of local residents that services previously provided at Ashby Hospital had moved further away to Coalville and Loughborough and raised these on their behalf, as well as seeking reassurance that travel time for patients had been taken into account.

The work regarding Hinckley and Bosworth related to the potential closure of Hinckley and District Hospital. We noted with concern that, without substantial capital investment, existing services may have to be cut due to the clinical risks presented by the existing environment. We gave our full support to West Leicestershire CCG's bid for capital funding, submitted to NHS England, and followed this up by writing to NHS England ourselves to urge their support for the bid. It was gratifying that, shortly after the letter had been submitted, NHS England confirmed that it was awarding £7,035,000 for Community Health Services in Hinckley and Bosworth. We look forward to responding to the public consultation on how this money is to be spent and the services that will be provided in the area.

#### **Winter Pressures**

Recognising that the previous winter had been particularly challenging, we moved this annual item forward to our September meeting. We asked for improvements to the discharge

process, including the availability of medication. We also raised concerns around the lack of clarity regarding the procedure for attending Urgent Care Centres and asked for clear messages to be disseminated to the public regarding where to go for treatment. In March we assessed the success of the Winter Plan. We welcomed the improvement in some areas compared to the previous year but noted that it had been a mild winter and sought assurance that the disparity between capacity and demand would continue to be addressed. We are pleased that further transformational programmes will be implemented in summer 2019.

### **Director of Public Health Initiatives**

We have scrutinised a number of initiatives led by the Director of Public Health including the new model for an integrated lifestyle service, the suicide prevention programme, and the 'RUOKToday?' programme. We made positive comments regarding the weight management programme and suggested the introduction of a mobile phone app as part of the service. We have a particular interest in the substance misuse service delivered by Turning Point and are pleased that the service has been rated as Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission and that several areas of excellent practice were identified.

### **Outpatients**

Due to one of our members having concerns about waiting times, we looked at outpatient appointments in the context of a report and recommendations from the Royal College of Physicians. We were pleased that UHL acknowledged the need for action in this area and explored some of the proposals for improving waiting times such as patients being seen by the most appropriate specialist at their first appointment, ensuring that all appointments had clinical value and making greater use of the specialist skills of GPs and other practitioners. We also raised concerns regarding the amount of times appointments were rescheduled and the numbers of patients who failed to attend appointments. We were assured that two way text reminders and mobile phone apps were being developed to ensure patients knew the correct date.

### **Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service**

We have had concerns since Thames Ambulance Service Limited (TASL) took over the running of this service in October 2017. We were pleased to be able to question representatives from TASL following the publication of Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection report which rated the service as inadequate. We sought assurance that services in Leicestershire were safe, standards were met and that any areas for improvement were addressed. We also encouraged TASL to monitor and report patient experience. A further CQC report will be published in 2019 and we will closely monitor the findings.

# 6.

## Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

This committee scrutinises some health issues and consultations which have an impact on the whole area of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. During 2018/19 it was administered by Leicester City Council

### Highlights

#### Consolidation of Level 3 Intensive Care Services

Recognising the high levels of public concern regarding the lack of public consultation on proposals to transfer level 3 (i.e. for the 'sickest of the sick') intensive care unit beds from the General Hospital to the Glenfield Hospital and the Leicester Royal Infirmary, we considered this issue over the course of two meetings in September. We heard representations from a number of members of the public who were opposed to the proposals, which had been put forward on the grounds of clinical safety.

We recognised the strong clinical case supporting the proposal to move these services, but expressed deep regret that the CCGs and the University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) did not listen to public calls for increased engagement and consultation after the Business Case had been approved by their Boards in November 2017. We requested regular updates on the matter, including any concerns that are raised regarding the implementation of the proposals. The Committee also voted to request the CCGs and UHL to undertake public consultation before continuing with their proposals, as we were not convinced that the reasons given precluded the responsibility to carry out public consultation.

#### Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust – CQC Inspection

We had significant concerns following the publication of LPT's CQC report, which gave LPT an overall rating of 'requires improvement' and found the 'well led' domain to be inadequate. We are disappointed with LPT's lack of progress; this is the fourth CQC inspection to find that the Trust requires improvement and the majority of concerns raised this time have also been raised previously.

We noted that the Chief Executive of LPT is taking early retirement and a number of senior posts are either new or interim appointments. However, this did not give us sufficient assurance that the issues relating to leadership are being addressed and we will continue to monitor performance in this area closely.

# 7.

## Scrutiny Review Panels

**Scrutiny Reviews represent an opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny Members to delve deeper into a particular subject or issue to find out more, speak to the individuals responsible and recommend any ways in which things might be improved at a level of scrutiny not always possible within the time limits and formal setting associated with Committee meetings.**

### Corporate Parenting

Since October the Corporate Parenting Scrutiny Review Panel has met six times and has attended the launch of the Council's 'Children in Care Pledge' and meetings of the Corporate Parenting Board and Supporting Young People After Care.

We were appointed to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the County Council's current approach to corporate parenting, in particular the role of elected members as corporate parents, to ensure that this duty is discharged in the most effective and appropriate way.

We welcomed the work to date in developing the role of the County Council as a corporate parent, in particular the work undertaken by the managers of the Child Leavers team, the managers of the Children in Care and Care Leavers teams as well as the Virtual School in promoting apprenticeships, and the development of the Housing Protocol.

We felt that more could be done to highlight the role of Corporate Parenting to members. For example, it should be included in the description of the key roles of all County Councillors in the Constitution and a more detailed role description should also be developed to form part of the Corporate Parenting Strategy. This would enable members to have a clear understanding of the role and what it means in practice.

We did recognise that it would not be possible for all members to approach the role in the same way, but were keen for members to use their unique position to promote opportunities for Children in Care and Care Leavers. We therefore proposed that a Member Champion model should be trialled in three areas, Education, Training and Work, Housing and Accommodation and Health. We look forward to seeing this model put in place and the outcomes that it is able to achieve.



# 8.

## Looking ahead to 2019/20

**Following the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the County Council at the 2019 Annual Meeting, we will need to consider the environmental implications of all policies put forward, regardless of which Committee they are presented to. Sustainability will be a key theme going forward that will cut across the work of all of our Overview and Scrutiny Committees.**

### **Scrutiny Commission**

The Scrutiny Commission will maintain oversight of the Council's budget and finances, including the performance of the Capital Programme. We will continue to focus on economic development through looking at the opportunities presented by the emerging Local Industrial Strategy. We are looking to develop our role as Crime and Disorder Committee and improve our oversight of Community Safety matters. We also expect to scrutinise the Business Case for a Unitary Structure of Local Government for Leicestershire.

### **Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Adults and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee expects to receive a number of update reports around areas of work that have commenced during 2018/19 – this includes the Re-configuration of In-House Learning Disability Residential Accommodation, Capital Investment into Adult Social Care Accommodation Based Support Services, and the Collections and Learning Hub and Museum Service Collections. We will also be considering progress with the Target Operating Model and a report on the Quality of Care in Leicestershire.

### **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be receiving a further update on developments around SEND and on the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements. We will also be considering a report on Children Missing Education and the Children's Innovation Partnership.

### **Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

The Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee looks forward to considering the revised Environment Strategy, particularly in the light of the County Council's recent decision to declare a Climate Emergency.

We will also continue to consider and scrutinise the development of the proposals for the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road, contribute to the consultation on the review of parking charges, 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 is looking forward to responding to the consultation on the future of Community Health Services in Hinckley and Bosworth. We will receive a further report on outpatients with a particular focus on the performance of individual specialties. We will also monitor the changes being introduced as a result of the NHS Long Term Plan, including the development of Primary Care Networks. In terms of Public Health, we will continue to receive the Director's Annual Report and look forward to commenting on the Substance Misuse Strategy.

Administration of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee will transfer to Leicestershire County Council for 2019/20. We will continue to scrutinise the Better Care Together programme, including the proposed new model for Community Health Services, as well as monitoring LPT's response to the CQC inspection.

## Scrutiny Review Panel – Multi-Academy Trusts

We will set up a Scrutiny Review Panel to clarify the role of elected members in relation to Multi-Academy Trusts, looking at best practice from elsewhere and hearing the views of a local Multi-Academy Trust. We will also look at the effectiveness of existing processes for accountability and engagement.

## Overview and Scrutiny in Numbers: 2018/19



# Overview and Scrutiny Members 2018/19

## The Scrutiny Commission

Peter Bedford, CC\*  
 David Bill MBE, CC  
 Michael Charlesworth CC  
 Dr Terri Eynon CC  
 Dr Kevin Feltham CC  
 Simon Galton CC (Chairman)  
 Hilary Fryer CC  
 Jonathan Morgan CC  
 Rosita Page CC  
 Alan Pearson CC  
 Terry Richardson CC  
 Brenda Seaton CC  
 Michael Wyatt CC

## Adults and Communities

Dr Paul Bremner CC  
 Linda Broadley CC  
 Bill Crooks CC  
 Hilary Fryer CC  
 Dan Harrison CC  
 Bill Liquorish JP CC  
 Betty Newton CC  
 Ted Parton CC  
 Terry Richardson CC (Chairman)

## Environment and Transport

David Bill MBE, CC  
 Bill Boulter CC  
 Dr Paul Bremner CC  
 Max Hunt CC  
 Jonathan Morgan CC  
 Alan Pearson CC (Chairman)  
 James Poland CC  
 Janice Richards CC  
 Brenda Seaton CC

## Children and Families

Dr Kevin Feltham CC  
 Hilary Fryer CC  
 Jeffrey Kaufman CC  
 Canon Carolyn Lewis  
 Rosita Page CC  
 Brenda Seaton CC (Chairman)  
 Sean Sheahan CC  
 Geoff Welsh CC  
 Amanda Wright CC  
 Maggie Wright CC

## Health

Tom Barkley CC  
 David Bill MBE CC  
 Dr Kevin Feltham CC (Chairman)  
 Amanda Hack CC  
 Dan Harrison CC  
 Dr Sarah Hill CC  
 Ted Parton CC  
 Janice Richards CC  
 Maggie Wright CC

\* Peter Bedford replaced Trevor Pendleton, who was a Scrutiny Commissioner until he became a Cabinet Support Member in December 2018

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018/19  
Democratic Services  
Chief Executive's Department  
Leicestershire County Council

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