

ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2016-17

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To submit the Annual Scrutiny Report 2016-17 of the Scrutiny Committees to the Council, as required by Article 6 of the Council's constitution.

2 Recommendations/for decision

- | |
|---|
| 2.1 That the Annual Scrutiny Report 2016-17 be noted. |
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3 Supporting information

- 3.1 This annual report provides Members with an overview of the work carried out over the last twelve months by the Council's scrutiny committees, and provides a brief summary of the further challenges and opportunities for scrutiny looking forward to 2017-18.
- 3.2 It is intended to use the report to generate greater public interest and engagement in the overview and scrutiny process. A copy of the final report will be emailed to all Parishes and will also be available on the Council's website.
- 3.3 In accordance with the constitutional changes agreed at the full Council meeting on 23 February, 2011, the annual scrutiny report has been agreed by the Chairmen of the four Scrutiny Committees.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Craig Saunders (01296) 585043
None



Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017



Introduction

The Council's overview and scrutiny role allows Councillors to look closely at services and issues which affect the lives of local people – usually with a view to improving them. It's more commonly referred to simply as scrutiny.

Each year the Council produces a Scrutiny Annual Report which provides an account of the work carried out as part of the Council's overview and scrutiny arrangements.

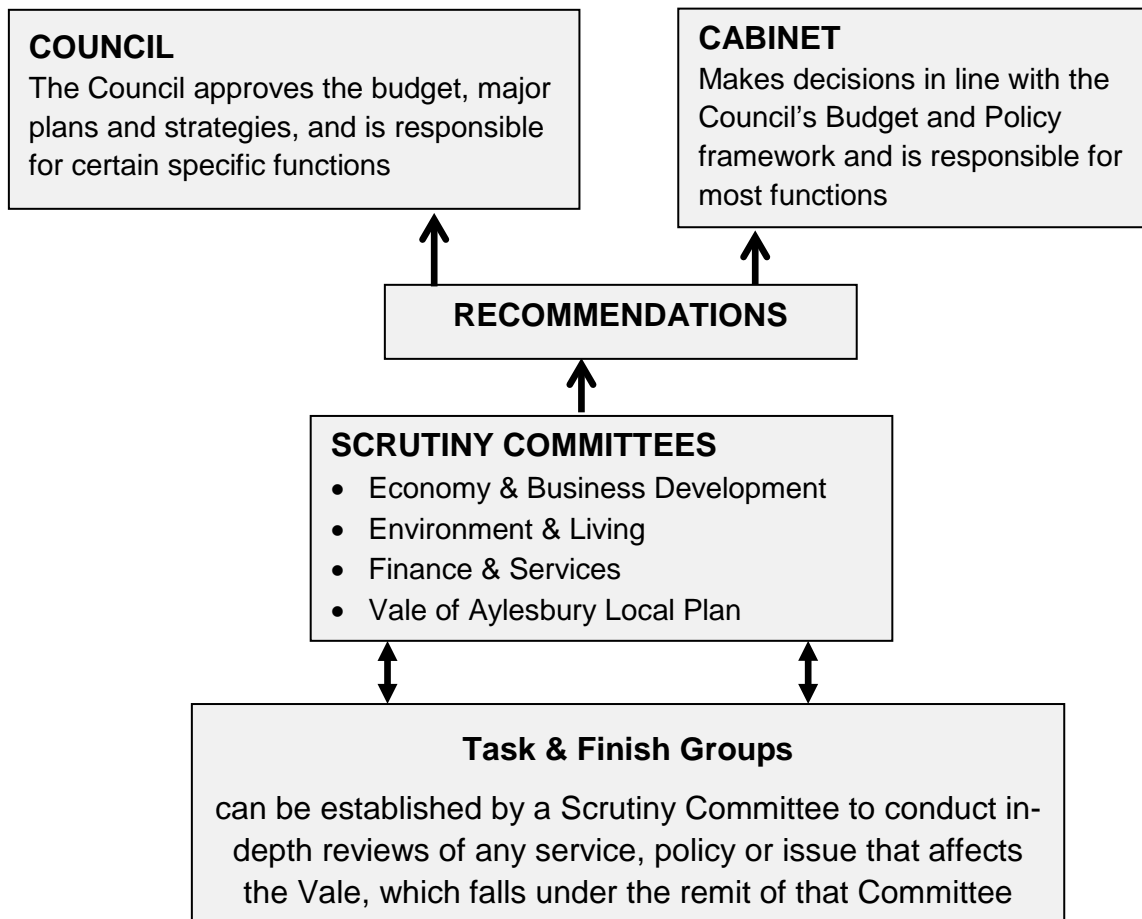
This provides an excellent opportunity for members of the public to see easily what Council functions and activities have been scrutinised over the past year and what may be looked at during the next year. There is also a form at the back of the report which can be used to allow people to raise issues which Scrutiny Committees may wish to investigate in the future.

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

All non-Executive councillors are eligible to participate in the work of scrutiny to review, support and improve Council services and to consider wider issues affecting the people of Aylesbury Vale.

The Council has four overview and scrutiny committees that consider new policies that are being developed, existing policies to see how well they are working and performance information to check that the Council is meeting the standards that have been set.

Each of these committees is also able to establish time-limited Task and Finish Group reviews that focus on a particular issue and consider it in greater detail than is possible at Committee. This usually happens at a number of meetings held over a 6-7 months period.



Membership of the Scrutiny Committees

Economy and Business Development Scrutiny Committee

The role of the Economy and Business Development Scrutiny Committee is to grow the economy by attracting new businesses to the Vale, improving the infrastructure of the Vale and delivering town centre projects.

Chairman
Councillor Peter
Strachan



Vice Chairman
Councillor Cameron
Branston



Membership: Councillors Brian Adams, Anders Christensen, Mike Hawkett, Tom Hunter Watts, Paul Irwin, Chris Poll, Julie Ward and Warren Whyte.

Statistics: information on attendance at meetings (including temporary changes), previous agendas/minutes and temporary changes is accessible on the Council's website at <http://democracy.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=139>

Future meetings: 24 May 2017, 6 September 2017 and 31 October 2017

Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee

The role of the Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee is to protect and improve the living experience in the Vale by enhancing our natural and built environment, building better communities and improving our towns.

Chairman
Councillor Mark Winn



Vice Chairman
Councillor Sandra
Jenkins



Membership: Councillors Peter Agoro, Mark Bateman, Ashley Bond, Sue Chapple, Andrew Cole, Simon Cole, Ben Everitt and Brian Foster.

Statistics: information on attendance at meetings (including temporary changes), previous agendas/minutes and temporary changes is accessible on the Council's website at <http://democracy.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=141>

Future meetings

13 June 2017: VAHT Annual Update, Sustainable Travel Plan, Local Climate Impacts,
20 September 2017 and **2 November 2017**

Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee

The role of the Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee is to deliver efficient and economic services by improving our services, generating more income and reducing costs.

Chairman
Councillor Michael
Rand



Vice Chairman
Councillor Bill Chapple
OBE



Membership: Councillors Jenny Bloom, John Chilver, Ben Everitt, Andy Huxley, Steven Lambert, Edward Sims, Mike Smith, Mary Stamp and Mark Winn.

Statistics: information on attendance at meetings (including temporary changes), previous agendas/minutes and temporary changes is accessible on the Council's website at <http://democracy.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=143>

Future meetings

4 April 2017: Treasury Management Strategy, Chilterns Crematorium Joint Committee, Connected Knowledge, Investment Strategy; **10 July 2017** and **3 October 2017**

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Scrutiny Committee

The role of the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan Scrutiny Committee is to undertake the overview and scrutiny function in relation to the plans, schemes, statements and documents which together comprise the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan

Chairman
Councillor Chris Poll



Vice Chairman
Councillor Michael
Collins



Membership: Councillors Andrew Cole, Peter Cooper, Michael Edmonds, Sandra Jenkins and Llew Monger.

Statistics: information on attendance at meetings (including temporary changes), previous agendas/minutes and temporary changes is accessible on the Council's website at <http://democracy.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=177>

Future meetings

11 July 2017: Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan – Submission draft

Key scrutiny work undertaken during 2016/17

The work of overview and scrutiny during 2016/17 has considered some of the following issues and themes:-

Overarching (all Committees)

- **Working with external partners and local communities** – During the year, a range of organisations and individuals from outside the Council have assisted scrutiny work, including the County Council, the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust, Buckinghamshire Advantage, Aylesbury Vale Broadband and Aylesbury Vale Estates.
- **Working with the Cabinet / Cabinet Members** – Cabinet Members have continued to be actively involved with scrutiny review work and ensured that the good scrutiny/Cabinet relationship has developed and strengthened.

Economy and Business Development Scrutiny Committee

- Strategic Economic Development Priorities
- Skills Update
- Waterside North next phases
- Aylesbury Vale Broadband Business Plan
- Enterprise Zones
- Town Centre Partnership
- Aylesbury Town Centre Plan
- Aylesbury Vale Estates Business Plan 2017/18

Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee

- Update from Buckinghamshire County Council on road repairs
- Adoption of the Riverine Corridor, Fairford Leys
- Update of Additional HMO Licensing
- Communities Team Review
- Food Service Plan 2016-17
- Ecology Update 2016
- Update on flooding on the Willows Development
- Enforcement Update
- Services provided by the Community Spaces team
- Carbon and Energy report
- AVDC and the Bucks Waste Partnership
- Community Safety Update / Strategy 2017-20

Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee

- Leisure Management Contract – Update
- Grants Review
- Resilience Strategy
- Aylesbury Vale Broadband – Directors
- Novae Consulting Update
- Financial Regulations
- Business Rates
- Capital Programme (Depot Development and New Fleet)
- Technology Strategy
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- Budget Scrutiny / in-year monitoring of the Council's financial performance

Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) Scrutiny Committee

- Draft VALP
- VALP Scrutiny responses to the draft Local Plan
- Draft VALP responses, Progress and Unmet Need
- VALP Update: Unmet Need and Major Issues

How is AVDC changing?

AVDC is changing as like all local authorities the Council is facing huge funding cuts from central government. The money received from Council tax bills and central government grants is reducing to such an extent that by 2018/19 the Council will not receive any government support towards the costs of services residents received. This is an £8m shortfall since 2010.

To meet this challenge the Council has Implemented the New Business Model, which is a more commercial approach to working. It has also reviewed every aspect of every service to find more cost effective ways of operating them, as well as looking for more business opportunities. While £14m has been saved in the last 6 years through both efficiencies and new income streams, further savings/income still need to be found. This will all be accompanied by change and it is likely that AVDC will have to stop some services and introduce new ones.

More information on the Changes to the way we work, charges introduced for some services, some services that have been stopped and changes the Council has already made are detailed on the website at <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/how-avdc-changing>

What are our challenges for 2017/18?

Future Challenges and Opportunities

- Making sure that our work reflects concerns of service users, community and public – consulting with a wide range of organisations, partners and the public for suggestions for scrutiny review and then on the actual work programme.
- Monitoring Council performance and recommending action for improvement.
- Supporting efforts to develop and introduce new ways of working which improve the bottom line financial performance of the Council.
- Continuing to ensure best use is made of taxpayers' money, and the Council's assets.
- Monitoring what has happened as a result of scrutiny work.
- Working with our partners at the County Council, neighbouring councils, Town/Parish Councils and external organisations to improve service delivery.
- Raising the profile of scrutiny within the wider community.
- Developing our links with the community.

What do people think are the issues emerging nationally and locally likely to affect Aylesbury Vale?

Do current policies meet your needs or is there room for improvement?

Let us know about issues that the Scrutiny Committees may wish to investigate in the future by returning the Get Involved 'Have Your Say': Suggestions for Scrutiny form on page 9.

Overview and Scrutiny on the web

Overview and Scrutiny has a dedicated section on the Council's website and can be found at <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/scrutiny>

This website provides up-to-date information on overview and scrutiny at AVDC.

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with the council logo, 'Pay Apply Report' links, and a search box. Below the navigation bar are three main menu items: 'Living in Aylesbury Vale', 'Working and Business', and 'Your Council'. The 'Your Council' menu is highlighted, and a breadcrumb trail shows 'Your Council > Councillors, meetings and elections > Scrutiny'. The main heading is 'Scrutiny'. Underneath, there is a section titled 'What does a scrutiny committee do?' with a bulleted list: 'holds the cabinet to account', 'monitors and reviews policies', and 'reviews council services to obtain better outcomes for the community'. This is followed by a paragraph stating that all meetings are open to the public and a link to a suggestion form. The next section is 'Scrutiny committee reviews', explaining that committees undertake both in-depth and one-off reviews. It then describes the 'call in' procedure, where a committee can refer a decision back to the decision-maker or the full council. At the bottom, there is an 'Other information' section with links to the 'Scrutiny annual report 2014-15' and the 'Scrutiny suggestion form'. Two circular icons with speech bubbles represent 'Councillor Call for Action' and 'The scrutiny committees'.

← → <https://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/scrutiny> Login | Register for MyAccount

Aylesbury Vale District Council Pay Apply Report Search Aylesbury Vale

Living in Aylesbury Vale Working and Business Your Council

Your Council > Councillors, meetings and elections > Scrutiny

Scrutiny

What does a scrutiny committee do?

- holds the cabinet to account
- monitors and reviews policies
- reviews council services to obtain better outcomes for the community

All scrutiny committee meetings are open to the public to attend unless otherwise stated. You may suggest an item for one of the scrutiny committees to consider by filling in the form below.

Scrutiny committee reviews

Scrutiny committees undertake both in-depth reviews and one-off reviews. The latter are suited to issues that don't fit with the council's ordinary decision making procedure, or on which we only have an advisory role.

At the end of a review, the chairman of the scrutiny committee presents recommendations to cabinet, who then decides whether or not to accept the recommendations.



The 'call in' procedure

A scrutiny committee can decide to 'call in' a cabinet or cabinet member decision, meaning it will review it and make its views known. If, after considering the decision, the scrutiny committee remains concerned about it, they can either refer it back to the decision-making person or body for reconsideration or, in exceptional circumstances, refer it to the full council.

Urgent decisions cannot be 'called in'.

Other information

- [Scrutiny annual report 2014-15](#)
- [Scrutiny suggestion form](#)

 Councillor Call for Action  The scrutiny committees

Get Involved – Have your say

Scrutiny Suggestion form

The Scrutiny Committees would welcome suggestions from members of the public, businesses or other organisations who wish to put forward issues which they feel could warrant review.

Your Subject

Please tell us about the subject you would like the Scrutiny Committees to review by either completing the form below or by visiting the website at:
www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Suggested topic:

Why do you feel the topic should be reviewed?

Have you contacted Aylesbury Vale District Council about this issue in the past? (Please give details)

Name:

Address

Postcode:

Telephone Number:

Email address:

Organisation:

(where appropriate)

Thank you for completing the form. We'll acknowledge receipt of your suggestion and let you know what happens next. Unfortunately we're not always able to review topics suggested.

Please return to: Democratic Services, Aylesbury Vale District Council, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8FF (admin@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk)

Contact Us

Telephone: 01296 585043
Text Relay: Please prefix your telephone number with 18001

Email: admin@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

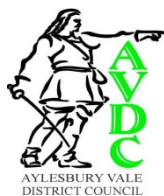
Address: Democratic Services
Aylesbury Vale District Council
The Gateway
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
HP19 8FF

Web: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/scrutiny

**If you want to know more about overview and scrutiny at AVDC
then please feel free to contact Democratic Services**

This document can be made available in other formats. For more information please telephone (01296) 585043

To be published in mid 2017 (following Council approval)



Democratic Services
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