

ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT 2018-19

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To submit the Annual Scrutiny Report 2018-19 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 2018-19 be noted. |
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3 Supporting information

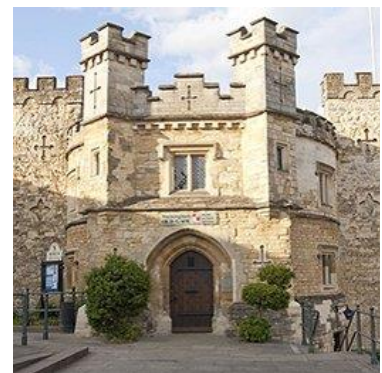
- 3.1 This annual report provides Members with an overview of the work carried out over the last twelve months by the Council's scrutiny committees, and provides a brief summary of the further challenges and opportunities for scrutiny looking forward to 2019-20.
- 3.2 It is intended to use the report 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 2018/2019



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.

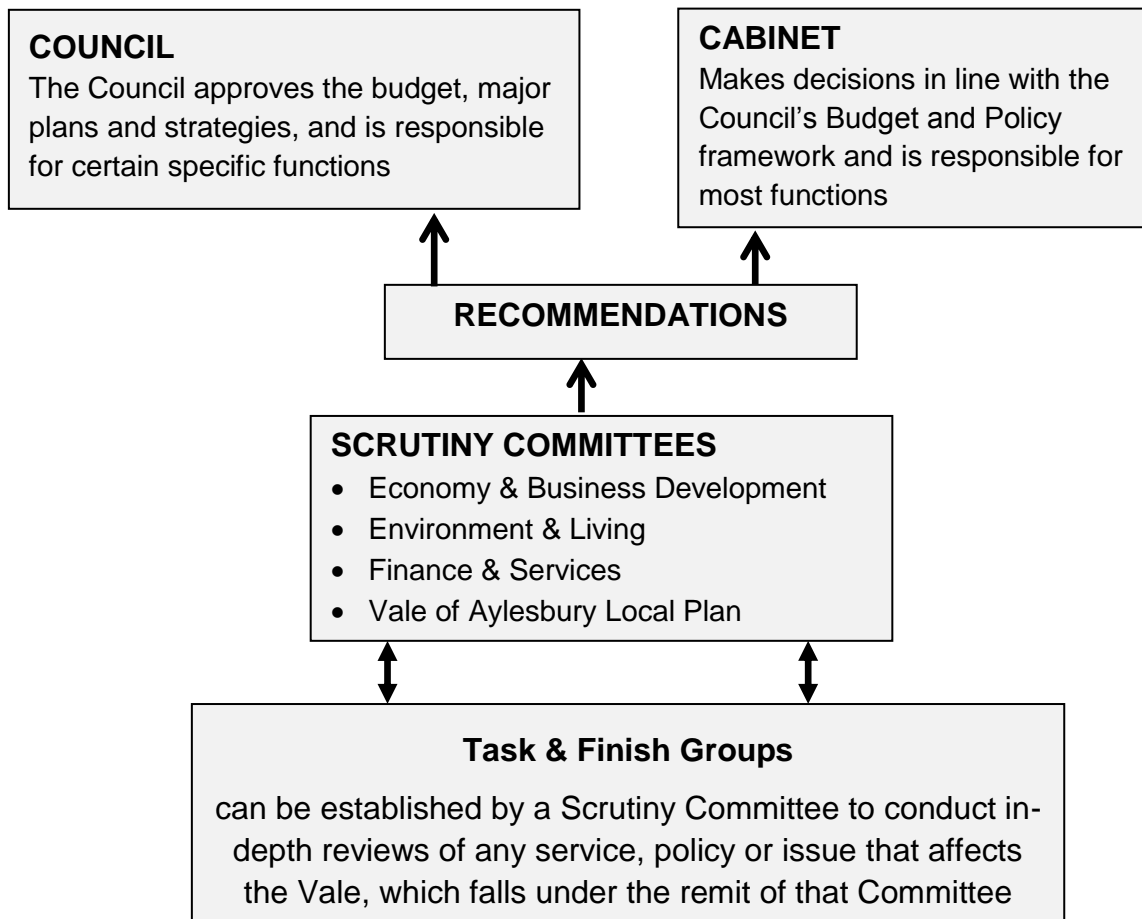
This provides an excellent opportunity for members of the public to see easily what Council functions and activities have been scrutinised over the past year and what may be looked at during the next year. There is also a form at the back of the report which can be used to allow people to raise issues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



Vice Chairman

Councillor Warren
Whyte



Membership: Councillors Brian Adams, Jenny Bloom, Bill Chapple OBE, Brian Foster, Mike Hawkett (until 26/3/19), Tom Hunter Watts, Sandra Jenkins, David Lyons (from 26/3/19), Chris Poll and Waheed Raja.

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: 17 June 2019, 10 September 2019, 6 November 2019, 21 January 2020

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 Sandra
Jenkins



Vice Chairman

Councillor Ben Everitt



Membership: Councillors Mark Bateman, Sue Chapple, Andrew Cole, Simon Cole, Peter Cooper, Tom Hunter-Watts, Sally-Anne Jarvis, Roger King and Michael Rand.

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: 25 June, 2019, 24 September 2019, 3 December 2019, 10 February 2020

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 Ben Everitt



Membership: Councillors Jenny Bloom, John Chilver, Steven Lambert, Richard Newcombe, Mike Smith, Mary Stamp, Robin Stuchbury 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: 2 July 2018, 9 September 2019, 11 November 2019, 16 December 2019

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.

Full Council resolved on 18 October 2017 to agree the proposed draft of the VALP which, after a period of statutory consultation, was subsequently put forward for Examination. As such, no scheduled meetings of this Scrutiny Committee were held during 2018-19. Information on the VALP is available on the Council's website at www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/section/vale-aylesbury-local-plan-valp-2013-2033

Chairman
Councillor Chris Poll



Vice Chairman
Councillor Andrew
Cole



Membership: Councillors Brian Adams, Michael Collins, Michael Edmonds (until 8/11/2018), Sandra Jenkins, David Lyons (from 11/3/19) and Llew Monger.

Key scrutiny work undertaken during 2018/19

The work of overview and scrutiny during 2018/19 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 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

- Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zones Update
- Aylesbury Vale Estates – review of performance against 2017-18 Business Plan
- Draft Parking Strategy for Aylesbury Town Centre
- Local Enterprise Partnerships Review
- Aylesbury Vale Estates Business Plan 2019/22
- Local Industrial Strategies

Environment and Living Scrutiny Committee

- Update to the Private Sector Housing Regeneration Policy
- Development Management Update
- Anti Social Behaviour Policy
- Street and Horticultural Contract
- Bucks Home Choice Allocations Policy
- Planning Enforcement Update
- CCTV
- Housing and Homelessness Strategy Update
- Community Safety Partnership

Finance and Services Scrutiny Committee

- Leisure Centres Management Contract – Annual Review
- Kingsbury and Market Square Improvement Schemes
- Treasury Management 2017-18 Year End Report
- Budget Planning 2019-20
- Budget Scrutiny / in-year monitoring of the Council's financial performance
- Silverstone Heritage Experience
- Treasury Management 2018-19 Mid Year Review
- Connected Knowledge Investment Proposal
- Capital Programme Review
- Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- Debt Management Report

How is AVDC changing?

AVDC is changing as like all local authorities the amount of money it receives from central Government towards the costs of running local Council services has reduced significantly since 2010.

To meet this challenge the Council has implemented new ways of working and re-structured the workforce to ensure that it is more commercial focussed. 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 £20m has been saved in the last 9 years through both efficiencies and new income streams, further savings/income still need to be found.

More information on the Changes to the way the Council works, 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 2019/20?

A new unitary council for Buckinghamshire

On 1 November 2018 the Government announced a single unitary council for Buckinghamshire.

This will be a brand new council replacing the 4 District Councils and the County Council on 1 April 2020. The new council will cover the whole of the county area and deliver all local government services that the District and County Councils in Buckinghamshire currently provide.

The existing Councils will continue to ensure that their scrutiny work reflects the concerns of service users, the community and the public and that they consult with a wide range of organisations, partners and the public for suggestions for scrutiny review and then on the actual work programme.

This will include monitoring Councils' performances and recommending action for improvement so that services are in the best possible position to be taken forward to the Buckinghamshire Council.

A Shadow Authority will be formed in mid 2019 which will oversee the arrangements being put in place for the new Council. This will include a Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee that will have a primary aim to provide objective and timely scrutiny to support the successful implementation of the new Buckinghamshire Council.

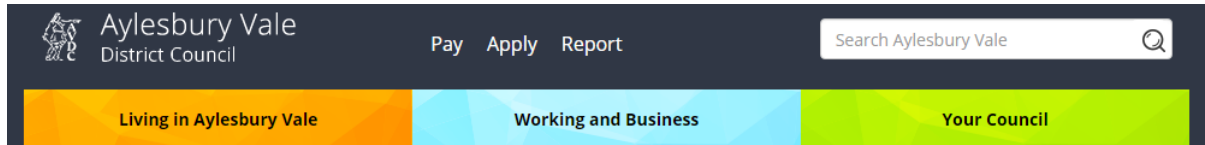
As the first 2020/21 budget for the new Buckinghamshire Council will be approved by the Shadow Authority in early 2020, scrutiny of that budget will be undertaken by the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Let us know about issues that the existing AVDC Scrutiny Committees may wish to investigate in 2019-20 by returning the Get Involved 'Have Your Say': Suggestions for Scrutiny form on page 8.

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.



[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 2017-18](#)
- [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

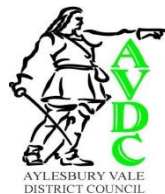
Address: Democratic Services
Aylesbury Vale District Council
The Gateway
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
HP19 8FF

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 2019 (subject to Council approval)



Democratic Services
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