



Meeting of the Council

Monday, 13th April, 2015 at 6.00pm
in the Council Chamber at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council for the purpose of transacting the business set out in the numbered agenda items listed below.

Agenda - Public Session (Meeting open to the public and press)

Prayers.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
3. To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 23rd February and 2nd March, 2015 as correct records.
4. Mayor's Announcements.
5. To receive reports from meetings as follows:

Meeting of the Cabinet held on 11th March, 2015:

Councillor P Lowe to move:

- (a) Capital Programme Monitoring (Pages 1 to 7).

Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board held on 26th March, 2015

Councillor D Tyler to move:

- (b) Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board 2014/15 (Pages 8 to 14)

6. Notice of Motion

To consider the following notice of motion received from Councillor D Perks on 26th March, 2015:

“That the Council makes provision in the municipal calendar for 2015/16 onwards to book the Council Chamber for three or four sessions per municipal year for the sole purpose of open non partisan debates. Councillors can register items for debate given a suitable notice period. Examples of possible topical issues for debate are the Hippodrome and the Combined Authority.

This will not only demonstrate clear transparency and democratic process but will act as an informative measure for elected members. There need not be a vote following the debates, but the relevant members and officers should be present for clarification and advice.

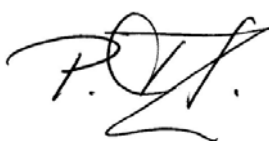
It is our job as elected members to be the conduit between the Council and the people we represent. The proposed debates will be a mechanism to improve this. It will also help progress with all members having an input into debated subjects allowing more opinions and ideas to be put forward. These debates will not be formal Council meetings and therefore Council Procedure Rules will not apply. The Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) will be asked to develop informal protocols to assist in the smooth organisation and operation of the proposed debates.

The debates will provide a mechanism for more members to be engaged and informed on future policy development and give their opinions on future items being reported to the Cabinet and Council. If no items arise, then the pre booked dates can be cancelled by agreement with the Group Leaders.”

7. To answer questions under Council Procedure Rule 11.

Questions on the Minutes of the Cabinet and Committees, Community Forums and the Delegated Decision Summaries – these are contained in the separate book circulated to Members of the Council.

8. To consider any business not on the agenda which by reason of special circumstances the Mayor is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1972.



Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation)

Dated: 1st April, 2015

Distribution: All Members of the Council

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- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website www.dudley.gov.uk
- The Democratic Services contact officer for this meeting is Steve Griffiths, Telephone 01384 815235 or E-mail steve.griffiths@dudley.gov.uk

Dudley Metropolitan Borough

Minutes of the proceedings of the Council at the meeting held on Monday, 23rd February 2015 at 6.00 pm at the Council House, Dudley

Present:

Councillor M Aston (Mayor)

Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed, S Ali, A Aston, M Attwood, N Barlow, C Baugh, C Billingham, H Bills, D Blood, R Body, P Bradley, D Branwood, P Brothwood, K Casey, D Caunt, I Cooper, B Cotterill, J Cowell, T Crumpton, W Duckworth, C Elcock, B Etheridge, M Evans, A Finch, K Finch, J Foster, A Goddard, N Gregory, C Hale, M Hanif, P Harley, R Harris, D Hemingsley, S Henley, T Herbert, Z Islam, R James, L Jones, K Jordan, I Kettle, P Lowe, I Marrey, J Martin, P Martin, P Miller, N Neale, G Partridge, C Perks, D Perks, M Roberts, H Rogers, R Scott-Dow, K Shakespeare, G Simms, A Taylor, E Taylor, H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, D Tyler, D Vickers, M Wood and Q Zada together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

62 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors S Arshad, S Etheridge, M Mottram, D Russell, D Sparks, S Waltho and M Wilson.

63 Declarations of Interests

Declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members:

Councillor M Hanif – Minute No. 32 of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (Russells Hall Hospital – Parking and Transport Issues) – Non-pecuniary interest as he was a Centro Member appointed by the Council.

Councillor K Turner – Minute No. 25 of the Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee (Financial Implications of the Care Act) – Non-pecuniary interest as Director and Chairman of Age Concern Stourbridge and Halesowen.

Councillor A Finch – Minute No.20 of the Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee (Medium Term Financial Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of his son’s employment with the Council in the Directorate of Adult, Community and Housing Services.

Councillor M Attwood – Minute No. 20 of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee (Medium Term Financial Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Management Committee for short stay schools within the Dudley Borough.

Councillor C Perks – Minute No. 20 of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee (Medium Term Financial Strategy) – Non-pecuniary interest as Governor of North Road Primary School.

Councillor I Marrey – Minute No. 29 of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee (Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11.8) – Non-pecuniary interest as a parent of a child who was in receipt of direct payments and as a Parent/Governor of Pens Meadow Primary School.

Councillor K Turner – Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee – Non-pecuniary interest in respect of any reference made to older people as the Chairman and Director for Age Concern.

Councillor E Taylor – Minutes of the Health Scrutiny Committee – Non-pecuniary interest in respect of any reference made to Russells Hall Hospital in view of the fact that her daughter worked at the hospital as a staff nurse.

Councillor K Casey – Minute No. 54 of the Development Control Committee (Planning Application No. P14/1581 (Seven Stars, Gospel End Road, Dudley)) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of him being employed by the Constituency Member of Parliament that had written to confirm objections to the application, as referred to in the pre-committee notes.

CLr K Casey – Minute No. 62 of the Development Control Committee (Tree Preservation Order TPO/0110/SED (Northway/Eversley Grove)) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of him being employed by the Constituency Member of Parliament who had written to object to the Order on behalf of residents.

Councillor N Neale – Minute 37 of the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board (Health and Social Care System Resilience Group – Terms of Reference) – Non-pecuniary interest in view of her employment with NHS 111.

Councillor T Crumpton – All matters affecting schools – Non-pecuniary interest as a relative worked as a supply teacher.

Councillor A Aston – All matters relating to West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) – Pecuniary interest as an employee of WMAS.

Councillor S Turner – Any references to matters concerning Dudley College – Pecuniary interest in view of his employment as a Lecturer.

Councillor G Simms – Issues relating to Looked After Children – Non-pecuniary interest in view of her employment with an independent fostering agency.

Councillor Q Zada – Issues relating to Children, Young People and Families – Non-pecuniary interest as an employee of Black Country Partnership NHS Trust.

Councillors M Evans and D Hemingsley – Agenda Item No. 6(a) (Capital Programme Monitoring) reference to Castle Hill Development – Non-pecuniary interests as Trustees of Dudley Zoo.

Councillor D Tyler – Agenda Item No. 6(a) (Capital Programme Monitoring) reference to Castle Hill Development – Non-pecuniary interest as a Co-opted Member in relation to Dudley Zoo.

Directors and Chief Officers – Minute No. 50 of the Cabinet (Update on Senior Management and Corporate Restructure Implementation) and Minutes of the Appointments Committee relating to the specific posts referred to in those minutes – Pecuniary interests in view of employment with Dudley MBC.

64 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 1st December, and the extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 19th December, 2014 be approved as correct records and signed.

65 **Presentation by Chief Fire Officer**

This item was deferred at the request of the Chief Fire Officer.

66 **Mayor's Announcements**

(a) **Councillor Margaret Wilson**

The Mayor referred to the absence of Councillor M Wilson.

Resolved

That in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council approve the reason for Councillor M Wilson's non-attendance at meetings, on health grounds, and that this approval remain in effect until such time as Councillor M Wilson is able to resume her duties.

- (b) Deaths of Michelle Mottram, Harry Nottingham, Philip Bradbourn, Mark Wyatt, Margaret Wilson and Marjorie Blackburn

The Mayor referred in sympathetic terms to the recent deaths of Michelle Mottram (Mayoress of the Borough in 2012/13), Harry Nottingham (former Councillor for the Wordsley ward), Philip Bradbourn (MEP for the West Midlands Region), Mark Wyatt (former Director of Children's Services), Margaret Wilson (widow of the late J T Wilson) and Marjorie Blackburn (widow of the late John Blackburn). The Council observed a period of silence as a token of respect to their memory. Members of the Council then paid individual tributes.

- (c) YMCA Black Country Group – Charity Event

The Mayor thanked Councillors P Lowe and R Body, who had slept rough on Christmas Eve 2014 to raise money for the YMCA Black Country Group. It was noted that the event raised around £2,500 for Charity as well as promoting issues for homeless people.

- (d) Mayors Ball

The Mayor's Ball would be held on 27th March, 2015 at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill.

67 **Capital Programme Monitoring**

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor P Lowe, seconded by Councillor S Turner and

Resolved

- (1) That current progress with the 2014/15 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A be noted, and that budgets be amended to reflect the reported variances.
- (2) That the grant funding for a toucan crossing in Colley Gate, Halesowen be noted and the project included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.
- (3) That the Wordsley Park Garage project be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report.
- (4) That the CCTV project at Blowers Green and Lister Road depots be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report.
- (5) That the Highways Maintenance Block allocations 2015/16 to 2017/18 be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10 of the report.

- (6) That the funding to install a new kitchen at Netherton Church of England Primary School be noted and the project included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 11 of the report.
 - (7) That the initial Energy Efficiency projects be approved and included in the Capital Programme, and that the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) be authorised to include further projects subject to establishing value for money and the availability of funding, as set out in paragraph 12 of the report.
 - (8) That the urgent amendments to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the report, be noted.
 - (9) That the Prudential Indicators as required to be determined by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Local Government Act 2003, as set out in Appendix C to the report, be agreed.
 - (10) That the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy for 2014/15 be approved as set out in paragraph 18 of the report.
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68 **Deployment of Resources – Housing Revenue Account and Public Sector Housing Capital**

A report of the Cabinet was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor G Partridge, seconded by Councillor S Turner and

Resolved

- (1) That the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget for 2014/15 and the HRA budget for 2015/16 outlined in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
- (2) That the public sector housing revised capital budget for 2014/15 and the capital budget for 2015/16 to 2019/20 attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
- (3) That the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing) and the Strategic Director (Resources and Transformation) be authorised to bid for and enter into funding arrangements for additional resources to supplement investment in the public sector housing stock as outlined in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the report and that expenditure funded from such resources be added to the Capital Programme.
- (4) That the Strategic Director (Environment, Economy and Housing), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Safety, be authorised to manage and allocate resources to the capital programme as outlined in paragraph 26 of the report.

- (5) That the Council confirm that all capital receipts arising from the sale of HRA assets (other than those specifically committed to support private sector housing) continue to be used for the improvement of council homes.
 - (6) That the HRA medium term financial strategy and thirty year business plan, attached as Appendix 4 to the report, be endorsed.
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69 **Treasury Management**

A report of the Audit and Standards Committee was submitted.

It was moved by Councillor J Cowell, seconded by Councillor S Turner and

Resolved

- (1) That the treasury activities in 2014/15, as outlined in the report, be noted.
 - (2) That the Treasury Strategy 2015/16, attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.
 - (3) That the Chief Officer (Finance and Legal Services) be authorised to effect such borrowings, repayments and investments as are appropriate and consistent with the approved Treasury Strategy and relevant guidance.
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70 **Questions under Council Procedure Rule 11**

During questions asked under Council Procedure Rule 11, there were no decisions that the Leader, Cabinet Members or Chairs agreed to have reconsidered.

The meeting ended at 8.05pm

MAYOR

Dudley Metropolitan Borough

**Minutes of the proceedings of the Council
at the meeting held on Monday, 2nd March, 2015
at 6.00 pm at the Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor M Aston (Mayor)
Councillor S Waltho (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed, S Ali, A Aston, M Attwood, N Barlow, C Baugh, C Billingham, H Bills, D Blood, R Body, P Bradley, D Branwood, P Brothwood, K Casey, D Caunt, I Cooper, B Cotterill, J Cowell, T Crumpton, W Duckworth, C Elcock, B Etheridge, S Etheridge, M Evans, A Finch, K Finch, J Foster, A Goddard, N Gregory, M Hanif, P Harley, R Harris, D Hemingsley, S Henley, Z Islam, R James, L Jones, K Jordan, I Kettle, P Lowe, I Marrey, J Martin, P Miller, M Mottram, N Neale, G Partridge, C Perks, D Perks, M Roberts, H Rogers, D Russell, R Scott-Dow, K Shakespeare, G Simms, D Sparks, A Taylor, E Taylor, H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, D Tyler, D Vickers and Q Zada together with the Chief Executive and other Officers.

Prayers

The Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in prayer.

71 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors S Arshad, C Hale, T Herbert, P Martin, M Wilson and M Wood.

72 **Declarations of Interests**

Declarations of interests, in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct, were made by the following Members:

Councillor T Crumpton – All matters affecting schools – Non-pecuniary interest as a relative worked as a supply teacher.

Councillor A Aston – All matters relating to West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) – Pecuniary interest as an employee of WMAS.

Councillor S Turner – Any references to matters concerning Dudley College – Pecuniary interest in view of his employment as a Lecturer.

Councillor G Simms – Issues relating to Looked After Children – Non-pecuniary interest in view of her employment with an independent fostering agency.

Councillor Q Zada – Issues relating to Children, Young People and Families – Non-pecuniary interest as an employee of Black Country Partnership NHS Trust.

Councillors M Evans, D Hemingsley and D Sparks – Any matters relating to Castle Hill Development and all references to Dudley Zoo – Non-pecuniary interests as Trustees of Dudley Zoo.

Councillor D Tyler – Any matters relating to Castle Hill Development and all references to Dudley Zoo – Non-pecuniary interests as a Co-opted Member in relation to Dudley Zoo.

The Chief Executive, Directors and Chief Officers – Any references to the organisational restructure and the Pay Policy Statement – Pecuniary interests due to their employment with Dudley MBC.

Councillor K Turner – Any reference to Voluntary Group funding – Non-pecuniary interest as Chairman and Director of Age Concern, Stourbridge and Halesowen.

Councillors H Turner and K Turner – Any reference to School Services – Non-pecuniary interest as their Granddaughter presently taught at a primary school in Dudley Borough.

73 **Suspension of Council Procedure Rules**

It was moved by Councillor P Lowe, seconded by Councillor S Turner and

Resolved

That, under Council Procedure Rule 22.1, the time restriction of five minutes referred to in Council Procedure Rule 14.4, be suspended to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance and the Lead Spokespersons for the other Opposition Groups to speak for longer than five minutes on Minute No. 74 below and to enable the Cabinet Member for Finance to speak for longer than five minutes to exercise his right of reply to the debate.

74 **Revenue Budget Strategy and Setting the Council Tax 2015/2016**

A joint report of the Chief Executive and the Chief Officer (Finance and Legal Services) was submitted, setting out recommendations concerning the deployment of General Fund revenue resources, a number of statutory calculations that had to be made by the Council and the Council Tax to be levied for the period from 1st April, 2015 to 31st March, 2016.

It was moved by Councillor S Turner and seconded by Councillor P Lowe that the recommendations, as set out in the report submitted to the meeting, be approved and adopted.

Following a speech by Councillor D Vickers on behalf of the Conservative Group, the following amendment was moved by Councillor D Vickers:-

“That the recommendation at paragraph 89 of the report submitted to the meeting be replaced by the following:-

- That the Strategic Director for People be authorised to undertake a review to identify opportunities for procurement savings and better integration across home to school transport and children’s and adults’ social care transport.
- That this review be targeted to achieve procurement savings of 5% (£85,000) in 2015/16, rising to 7.5% (£127,500) in 2016/17 and 9% (£153,000) in 2017/18 and savings from integration of £5,000 in 2015/16 rising to £10,000 in 2016/17 and £15,000 in 2017/18.
- That subject to identification of alternative savings as set out above, plans to save £130,000 by removing local authority transport provision from children attending specialist nurseries be withdrawn.
- That members note that, subject to identification of alternative savings as set out above, the effect over the three years of the Medium Term Financial Strategy would be broadly neutral.
- That a further report be brought to Cabinet and Council in due course so as to report the results of the proposed review and to authorise amendments to the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.”

The amendment was duly seconded by Councillor T Crumpton. Following discussion, the amendment was put to the meeting and carried. The motion, as amended, became the substantive motion on which there was further debate.

Following a speech by Councillor P Brothwood on behalf of the UKIP Group, the following amendment was moved by Councillor P Brothwood and seconded by Councillor B Etheridge:-

“That, in addition to the recommendations set out in the report submitted to the meeting, the following recommendations also be approved and adopted:

- That free off-street parking be introduced on Saturdays and Sundays and that the timing of this change be determined as set out below.
- That from 1st April 2015 a 20% reduction be applied to the basic allowance for all members.

- That from at April 2015 a 50% reduction be applied to the special allowances for the Mayor, the Leader, Cabinet Members, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Committees.
- That the post of Chief Executive be deleted and that the functions of the Head of Paid Service be added to one of the Strategic Director posts and that the timing of this change be such as to allow compliance with relevant employment laws and regulations.
- That the salaries of Strategic Directors and Chief Officers be reduced by 20% but that a supplement of £20,000 be added to the salary of the Head of Paid Service and that the timing of this change be such as to allow compliance with relevant employment laws and regulations.
- That it be noted that the full year cost of free off-street parking on Saturdays and Sundays would be £513,000 and that the full year savings from the proposed changes to members' allowances and senior management structures and salaries would be £780,000, giving a net saving in a full year of £276,000.
- That the Assistant Director (Human Resources and Organisational Development) be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposed changes to structures and terms and conditions subject to compliance with relevant employment laws and regulations.
- That the introduction of free off-street car parking be delayed, subject to the timing of changes to senior management structures and salaries, such that there be no net cost in 2015/16.
- That a further report be brought to Cabinet and Council in due course so as to authorise amendments to the budget, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Pay Policy Statement.”

Following a debate, the amendment was put to the vote and lost.

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 16.4, at the demand of in excess of six members present at the meeting, the voting on the above amendment was recorded as follows:-

For (7)

Councillors P Bradley, P Brothwood, R Scott-Dow, B Etheridge, S Etheridge, S Henley and D Perks.

Against (51)

Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed, S Ali, A Aston, M Attwood, C Baugh, C Billingham, H Bills, D Blood, R Body, D Branwood, K Casey, D Caunt, I Cooper, B Cotterill, J Cowell, T Crumpton, W Duckworth, C Elcock, A Finch, K Finch, J Foster, N Gregory, M Hanif, P Harley, R Harris, D Hemingsley, Z Islam, K Jordan, I Kettle, P Lowe, I Marrey, J Martin, P Miller, M Mottram, G Partridge, C Perks, M Roberts, D Russell, K Shakespeare, G Simms, D Sparks, A Taylor, E Taylor, H Turner, K Turner, S Turner, D Tyler, D Vickers, S Waltho and Q Zada.

Abstained (5)

Councillors M Evans, A Goddard, L Jones, N Neale and H Rogers.

Following a speech by Councillor K Turner on behalf of the Independent Group, the report was the subject of general debate by Members.

At the conclusion of the debate, Councillor S Turner was afforded and exercised his right of reply pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 14.11(b). The motion was then put to the vote and it was

Resolved

- (1) That the budget for 2015/16, and service allocations (including the Public Health budget) as set out in the report, be approved.
- (2) That the statutory amounts required to be calculated for the Council's spending, contingencies and contributions to reserves; income and use of reserves; transfers to and from its collection fund; and Council Tax requirement, as referred to in Section 67(2)(b) be now calculated by the Council for the year 2015/16 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as shown below:-
 - (a) £687.213000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A (2) of the Act (*The Council's spending, contingencies, contribution to reserves and specified transfers from the general fund to the collection fund*).
 - (b) £590.542000m being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 31A (3) of the Act (*The Council's income, use of reserves, and specified transfers from the collection fund to the general fund*).

- (c) £96.671000m being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year.
- (d) £1125.3541 being the amount at (c) above divided by the Council Tax base of 85,902.74 calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B (1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

(e) Dudley Council Tax for each Valuation Band

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
750.24	875.28	1000.31	1125.35	1375.43	1625.51	1875.59	2250.71

being the rounded amounts given by multiplying the amount at (d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different bands.

(f) Precepts for each Valuation Band

That it be noted for the year 2015/16, that the major precepting authorities have issued the following amounts in precepts to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of the dwellings shown below:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
West Midlands Police	71.03	82.87	94.71	106.55	130.23	153.91	177.58	213.10
West Midlands Fire and Rescue	36.62	42.73	48.83	54.94	67.14	79.35	91.56	109.87

- (3) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts in Appendix 10 to the report, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, agrees the following levels of Council Tax for Dudley Council services for 2015/16.

Valuation Bands

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
857.89	1000.88	1143.85	1286.84	1572.80	1858.77	2144.73	2573.68

- (4) That the 2014/15 budgets be revised to reflect the variances set out in paragraphs 9 and 11 of the report.
- (5) That the Medium Term Financial Strategy, as set out in the report, be approved.
- (6) That the Council determine that a referendum relating to Council Tax increases is not required in accordance with Chapter 4ZA of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (7) That Cabinet Members, the Chief Executive and Directors be authorised to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals contained in the report, in accordance with the Council's Financial Management Regime.
- (8) That the Chief Executive and Directors be reminded to exercise strict budgetary control in accordance with the Financial Management Regime and care and caution in managing the 2015/16 budget, particularly in the context of commitments into later years and the impact that any overspending in 2015/16 will have on the availability of resources to meet future budgetary demands.
- (9) That the Chief Officer (Finance and Legal Services) be authorised to approve the realignment of budgets in due course to reflect the new Directorate structure, including the allocation of the £1m savings from the review of senior management.
- (10) (a) That the Strategic Director for People be authorised to undertake a review to identify opportunities for procurement savings and better integration across home to school transport and children's and adults' social care transport.
- (b) That this review be targeted to achieve procurement savings of 5% (£85,000) in 2015/16, rising to 7.5% (£127,500) in 2016/17 and 9% (£153,000) in 2017/18 and savings from integration of £5,000 in 2015/16 rising to £10,000 in 2016/17 and £15,000 in 2017/18.

- (c) That subject to identification of alternative savings as set out above, plans to save £130,000 by removing local authority transport provision from children attending specialist nurseries be withdrawn.
 - (d) That members note that, subject to identification of alternative savings as set out above, the effect over the three years of the Medium Term Financial Strategy would be broadly neutral.
 - (e) That a further report be brought to Cabinet and Council in due course so as to report the results of the proposed review and to authorise amendments to the budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy.”
- (11) That the creation of Budget Challenge Teams, as set out in paragraph 55, be noted.
- (12) That the Pay Policy Statement 2015, as set out in Appendix 12 to the report, be approved.

Under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, the voting on the above motion was recorded as follows:-

For (36)

Councillors A Ahmed, K Ahmed, S Ali, A Aston, C Baugh, C Billingham, H Bills, R Body, D Branwood, K Casey, I Cooper, B Cotterill, J Cowell, T Crumpton, A Finch, K Finch, J Foster, M Hanif, R Harris, D Hemingsley, Z Islam, K Jordan, P Lowe, I Marrey, J Martin, M Mottram, G Partridge, C Perks, D Russell, G Simms, D Sparks, E Taylor, S Turner, D Tyler, S Waltho and Q Zada.

Against (9)

Councillors P Bradley, P Brothwood, W Duckworth, B Etheridge, S Henley, D Perks, R Scott-Dow, H Turner and K Turner

Abstained (18)

Councillors M Attwood, N Barlow, D Blood, D Caunt, C Elcock, M Evans, A Goddard, N Gregory, P Harley, R James, L Jones, I Kettle, P Miller, N Neale, H Rogers, K Shakespeare, A Taylor and D Vickers.

The meeting ended at 8.52pm

MAYOR

CL/64

Meeting of the Council – 13th April 2015

Report of the Cabinet

Capital Programme Monitoring

Purpose of Report

1. To report progress with the implementation of the Capital Programme.
2. To propose amendments to the Capital Programme.

Background

3. The table below summarises the *current* 3 year Capital Programme updated where appropriate to reflect latest scheme spending profiles.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Public Sector Housing	43,284	46,439	48,805
Other Adult, Community & Housing	5,900	4,901	550
Urban Environment	25,932	24,990	8,656
Children's Services	12,846	15,061	161
Corporate Resources	2,677	1,554	1,266
Total spend	90,639	92,945	59,438
Revenue	16,428	10,985	11,390
Major Repairs Reserve (Housing)	22,319	22,457	22,744
Capital receipts	13,622	20,788	16,339
Grants and contributions (inc. Lottery)	24,455	16,394	2,877
Capital Financing Requirement*	13,815	22,321	6,088
Total funding	90,639	92,945	59,438

*This will be funded internally from the Council's cashflow resources as far as possible, rather than from external debt.

Note that the capital programme for future years is in particular subject to government grant allocations, some of which have not yet been announced.

4. In accordance with the requirements of the Council's Financial Regulations, details of progress with the 2014/15 Programme are given in Appendix A. It is proposed that the current position be noted. An update on progress with the Council's most significant capital schemes is shown in Appendix B.

Urban Environment

Integrated Transport Funding 2015/16

5. The West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority has recently approved the allocation of the above to individual authorities, Dudley's share of which is £1,490,000. The distribution between specific programmes will be determined in due course in accordance with agreed procedures in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transportation.

It is proposed that the allocation be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme.

Stourbridge Crematorium

6. The cremators at the above require full relining at an estimated cost of £65,000 which can be funded initially from prudential borrowing, to be repaid from revenue resources. It is proposed that the works be approved and included in the Capital Programme.

Children's Services

Schools Capital Allocations – School Condition Allocations 2015/16

7. The Council has been notified of its Schools Condition Allocation (previously Capital Maintenance) for 2015/16 of £3,956,000. The funding is based on condition data collected by the DfE via the Property Data Survey. This will be allocated on the basis of priorities determined through asset management data including health and safety issues, building condition surveys and access needs.

It is proposed that this allocation be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme.

Schools Capital Allocations – Devolved Capital 2015/16

8. The Council has been notified of its Devolved Capital allocation for 2015/16 of £760,000. This will be allocated to schools based on a DfE formula. Schools will be expected to determine capital projects in accordance with priorities set out in their schools' asset management plans and in conjunction with the Buildings & Estates Team.

It is proposed that this allocation be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme.

Schools Capital Allocations – Basic Need 2015/16 – 2017/18

9. The Council has been notified of top-ups to its Basic Need allocations for 2015/16 and 2016/17 of £1,576,000 and £3,359,000 respectively, and a new allocation for 2017/18 of £3,748,000. This funding is to support the provision of new pupils places in the Borough and will be allocated to specific projects in due course.

It is proposed that these allocations be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme.

Priority Schools Building Programme Phase 2

10. The Council has been notified that bids for the Priority Schools Building Programme phase 2 in respect of Huntingtree Primary School and Ridgewood High School (due for Academy conversion March 2015) have been successful. Detailed allocations, scope of work and procurement processes for the buildings projects are not known at the stage.

It is proposed that the funding be noted, and that subject to confirmation of detailed allocations the relevant associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme.

11. The Cabinet, at its meeting held on 11th March, 2015, resolved to recommend the Council to approve the recommendations set out below.

Finance

12. This report is financial in nature and information about the individual proposals is contained within the body of the report.

Law

13. The Council's budgeting process is governed by the Local Government Act 1972, the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980, the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Local Government Act 2003.

Equality Impact

14. These proposals comply with the Council's policy on Equality and Diversity.
15. With regard to Children and Young People:
 - The Capital Programme for Children's Services will be spent wholly on improving services for children and young people. Other elements of the Capital Programme will also have a significant impact on this group.
 - Consultation is undertaken with children and young people, if appropriate, when developing individual capital projects within the Programme.
 - There has been no direct involvement of children and young people in developing the proposals in this report.

Recommendations

16. That the Council be recommended:
 - That current progress with the 2014/15 Capital Programme, as set out in Appendix A, be noted.
 - That the Integrated Transport funding allocation be noted, and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 5.

- That the project to reline the cremators at Stourbridge Crematorium be approved and included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 6.
- That the Schools Condition allocation for 2015/16 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 7.
- That the Schools Devolved Capital allocation for 2015/16 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 8.
- That the Schools Basic Need allocations for 2015/16 – 2017/18 be noted and the associated expenditure included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 9.
- That the Priority Schools Building Programme Phase 2 funding be noted and that subject to confirmation of detailed allocations the relevant associated expenditure be included in the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 10.



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Leader of the Council

Appendix A**2014/15 Capital Programme Progress to Date**

Service	Budget £'000	Spend to 31st Jan £'000	Forecast £'000	Variance £'000	Comments
Public Sector Housing	43,284	34,265	43,284	0	
Other Adult, Community & Housing	5,900	4,321	5,900	0	
Urban Environment	25,932	17,209	25,932	0	
Children's Services	12,846	8,802	12,846	0	
Corporate Resources	2,677	2,079	2,677	0	
TOTAL	90,639	66,676	90,639	0	

Progress with Major Capital Schemes

Adult, Community and Housing

New Council Housing

A contract has been awarded and work has now commenced on site at Norfolk Road in Wollaston, The Walk in Sedgley, the conversion of the former Wren's Nest Estate Office and two apartments at Holloway Chambers in Dudley.

The conversion of the former care home at Arcal Lodge, Sedgley is out to tender. Conversion of the former Archives building at Roseville is due to be submitted to planning late January / early February, and a local consultation event is planned for early February with works planned to commence summer 2015.

A number of smaller housing infill and garage sites across the borough are also being progressed through feasibility stage and site investigations; ecological and topographical reports are being prepared for the schemes currently in design stage.

Urban Environment

Street Lighting

The Street Lighting Central Management System (CMS) was fully commissioned and operational in April 2013 and conversion of the street lighting stock continues. As at 27th February 2015, 21,100 of the Council's 32,000 street lights can now be controlled via the CMS system remotely to help save energy; 14,500 of these can be dimmed. Spend is forecast to be within budget and completion of the scheme is expected during financial year 2015/16.

Better Bus Area

The scheme which involves the construction of a new signal controlled pedestrian crossing on the A4036 Pedmore Road, and the creation of additional road space and signal controls to facilitate bus priority measures at the junction of the Boulevard with Mill St, Brierley Hill was granted planning permission in March 2014. The Pedmore Road pedestrian crossing was completed in December 2014 and the Boulevard bus priority element was substantially complete in January 2015. Spend is forecast to be within budget.

Mary Stevens Park

The first two contracts for the Gates restoration and the cafe building have now been awarded, work due to start mid March. The third contract which covers the landscape works and pool dredging will be let later on this year. A 6 monthly events programme has been developed and will be promoted through the "Let's Get" campaign literature. Volunteer recruitment is well underway. Spend is forecast to be within budget.

Castle Hill

New Access Road: Phase 1a was completed during October 2012. Phase 1b (link road and roundabout) was completed April 2013.

Phase 2 onwards: This comprises the secondary route, recreational route, car parking and Visitor Hub.

Planning permission was granted on 12th March 2013. Work commenced onsite for the initial phase of the secondary route on 23rd September 2013 and was completed February 2014. Work commenced on the lower level car parks on 4th December 2013, and completed March 2014. Work to upper level car park commenced April 2014, and was completed July 2014.

Three phases of landscape works have been completed to construct footpath links, planting to the car parks and the creation of the overflow car park. The contract for the Recreational route linking the Black Country Living Museum and the Dudley Canal Trust started in October 2014 and completed in March 2015. The work to create the new entrance into the Zoo is commenced in November 2014 for completion in April 2015. The new visitor hub building also commenced in November for completion in April 2015

Spend is forecast to be within budget.

Dudley Marketplace and Town Centre

The first phase of the overall Dudley Market Place Public Realm scheme, which is Castle Street/New Street, is substantially complete and was opened to full access on 10th August. The Earl of Dudley Statue work is still outstanding and will be progressed when we have reviewed the detailed costs shortly to be returned from the contractor. The Market Place (second phase) has now started and the market stalls were occupied by the market traders in early March. The project is due to complete on programme. Spend is forecast to be within budget.

Coronation Gardens

Detailed design has been completed and costs supplied by the contractor are currently being reviewed to ensure that spend is within budget. The scheme is due to be on site between April and September.

Children's Services

DGfL3

Dudley Grid for Learning (DGfL3) includes a programme of ICT equipment upgrade and renewal across financial years 2013/14 & 2014/15. The Refresh of ICT infrastructure and classroom equipment has now been completed across the school estate with the exception of two schools; these schools have chosen to take their refresh at a later stage. The programme of associated expenditure is on schedule to be completed in 2014/15 with the exception of the two schools.

Post 16 Facility for Pens Meadow School

The programme for design and procurement of the project is on track and the projected capital spend is in line with Education Funding Agency requirements.

Schools Basic Need projects

The first phase of projects funded from Basic Need capital grant are progressing well. Projects at the Brook and Woodside Primary Schools were completed during the summer with both schools now being able to admit up to 60 children in each year group. Projects at Kates Hill and Gig Mill are on site and are due to be completed by Easter 2015. The project at Sledmere Primary is on site and is on target to be completed during August 2015.

Meeting of the Council – 13th April, 2015

Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board 2014/15

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for 2014/15.

Background

2. The terms of reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, as set out in the Constitution, require an annual report to be submitted to the Council. It is a key function of the Board to make reports and recommendations to the Council and/or the Cabinet in connection with the discharge of overview and scrutiny functions.
3. Scrutiny Committees retain the flexibility to scrutinise any additional topics that might arise during the year. In carrying out their individual work programmes, Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs have the freedom to adapt their approaches to carry out the scrutiny reviews allocated to them. Examples have been informal meetings, visits, working groups and 'virtual' meetings.
4. The Council has recognised the importance of retaining an annual review process. This should ensure that the arrangements continue to align themselves to the needs of the Council and that the scrutiny arrangements remain adaptable and flexible to changes in circumstances.

Key Scrutiny Activities in 2014/15

5. This report gives a brief overview of the key areas of business considered by Scrutiny Committees during the 2014/15 municipal year. In addition, all Scrutiny Committees were involved in budget scrutiny during the November, 2014 cycle of meetings.
6. The minutes of all formal Scrutiny Committee meetings are reported to full Council in the 'White Book' submitted to each Council meeting. In addition, the minutes and reports of Scrutiny Committees can be accessed online via the [Committee Management Information System](#) on the Council's website. The main items of business considered by Scrutiny Committees in 2014/15 are as follows:

Urban Environment Scrutiny Committee

7. Chair – Councillor D Tyler; Vice Chair – Councillor A Finch; Lead Officer – Assistant Director of Adult, Community and Housing Services (Housing Strategy and Private Sector).
- Economic Development (including inward investment)
 - Environmental Management, Commercial Services

Adult, Community and Housing Services Scrutiny Committee

8. Chair – Councillor M Hanif; Vice Chair – Councillor R James; Lead Officer – Chief Officer (Corporate and Customer Services)
- Housing Futures Board
 - Dudley MBC's readiness to implement the Care Bill (now Act) in April 2015

The Committee has considered specific items on the Borough's Housing Strategy; Right to Buy and Replacement New Build; sustainability modelling of the Council's housing stock, in particular determining remodelling/demolition options; Carers and the Care Act; the Homelessness Service and the Elphick-House Report and Lyons Review.

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

9. Chair – Councillor M Mottram; Vice Chair – Councillor I Cooper; Lead Officers – Assistant Director, Housing Services (Part) and Assistant Director – Housing Strategy and Private Sector (Part)
- Childhood Neglect
 - Early Help Offer
 - Special Educational Needs Reform

Given the wider remit of the Committee, the appropriateness of its co-opted Membership was reviewed by the Board in June, 2014. On the recommendation of the Board, the Council resolved that the co-opted representation comprise only the statutory co-optees and that a pool of specialist/key contacts be invited to attend meetings and give evidence, as appropriate. For the purposes of continuity the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee later agreed that the former non-statutory co-optees be able to continue to attend its meetings by invitation for the remainder of the current Municipal Year.

On the issues of safeguarding, child trafficking and sexual exploitation the Committee have received and examined the Annual report of the Dudley Safeguarding Board, were shown a film illustrating how children can be groomed and have carried out various initiatives to increase the awareness of all Members of the Council's responsibilities. Under the umbrella of children's services presentations on child sexual exploitation were given to other Members and Officers of the Council through the Leadership Forum and the Taxis Committee. The view was expressed that the Council's responsibilities on safeguarding should be included as part of the induction arrangements for new Members of the Council and also for Members of the Council who had not served on the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee also considered the annual reports of the Fostering and Adoption Services.

Corporate Performance Management, Efficiency and Effectiveness Scrutiny Committee

10. Chair – Councillor D Blood; Vice Chair – Councillor B Cotterill; Lead Officer – Assistant Director, Policy and Improvement.
- The Work and Priorities of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner
 - Corporate use of Shared Services

During the course of the year the Committee also considered other items including an Update on Apprenticeships; Tourism Website; the Dudley Local Policing Unit and Police and Crime Broad – Priorities, Performance and Vision and have reviewed the regular Quarterly Corporate Performance Management reports.

Health Scrutiny Committee

11. Chair – Councillor C Hale; Vice Chair – Councillor N Barlow; Lead Officer – Assistant Director, Law and Governance.

In connection with its statutory role, the Committee has considered specific reports on the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership National Health Service (NHS) Trust – Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment; Mental Health Services Care Quality Commission Inspection; the Dudley Group NHS Care Quality Commission Outcomes; Dudley Group of Hospitals Financial Strategy; NHS Quality accounts; the Better Care Fund; Clinical Commissioning Group, Black Country and Solihull Stroke Review – Programme Development; Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust : Patient Experience; Winter Pressures; NHS Health Check implementation; delayed transfers of care and a report on NHS England Co-Commissioning and Primary Care intentions, together with regular updates on the Urgent Care Centre development.

With regard to the development of the Urgent Care Centre the Committee thoroughly scrutinised the proposals and have rigorously inspected the specification for the centre with a view to ensuring it was fit for purpose and that there was an appropriate composition of skilled staff. Arising from concerns and representations made by the Committee, particularly in relation to parking charges and inadequate parking, the Trust agreed put measures in place to alleviate problems. These included consulting with Centro with a view to consideration being given to improving public transport to the hospital, the maternity car park being freed up to create additional car parking spaces and a dedicated triaging telephone system would be put into place, and if needed, an appointment would be booked for patients should they need to attend the hospital, which would minimise relevant car parking charges.

The Committee also has the following items in the Annual Scrutiny Programme as part of their in-depth reviews:

- Tobacco Control Strategy -Update/Development
- Dudley Physical Activity and Sport Strategy

Work of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

12. Chair – Councillor D Tyler; Vice Chair – Councillor A Finch; Lead Officer – Assistant Director (Housing Strategy and Private Sector)

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board met on 29th April, 2014 to consider the development of the Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2014/15. It was considered that the Council's overview and scrutiny arrangements would continue to be the subject of an annual review process. A further meeting was held in June, 2014 to endorse the items in the annual programme and this included an additional item identified during the consultation process concerning corporate services provided by the Council that were shared between Directorates.

Details of the scrutiny topics were reported to the June/July cycle of Scrutiny Committees with a view to briefing Members of each Scrutiny Committee on the workload allocated to them.

Scrutiny of Budget Proposals

13. In 2014/15 Scrutiny Committees focussed on the detailed scrutiny of individual Directorate budget proposals.

Following the programmed cycle of Scrutiny Committees in November, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board met to scrutinise the overall budget proposals on a strategic basis. The Board noted that arising from comments made at Scrutiny Committees the Treasurer had given an undertaking to include further explanatory text in future budget reports.

Regarding budgetary proposals relating to home to school and college transport and arising from comments made that substantial savings and a better service could be achieved by changing the way the service was provided, the Board requested outcomes of the consultation to be reported to a future meeting.

Programming of Scrutiny Committee Meetings

14. The calendar of meetings for 2015/16 will include programmed meetings of all Scrutiny Committees throughout the whole year in line with the established cycle of committees. This will give clear timelines for the production of reports and reduces the possibility of meetings clashing with other key meetings in the municipal calendar. Additional formal and/or informal meetings or working groups can be arranged as and when necessary. The programme of meetings will be formally approved at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May, 2015.

Scrutiny Call-in

15. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has received the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for information at its programmed meetings during the year. It should be noted that, at the time of writing, there have been no formal scrutiny 'call-ins' referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board during the 2014/15 municipal year.

Other Issues

Better Care Fund

16. Arising from consideration of the Better Care Fund, the Board, at its meeting held on 16th October, 2014 recommended that the Cabinet Member for Human Resources, Legal, Property and Health ensures the inclusion of the Council's Housing Services with health care provision and the Better Care Fund. The Chair also suggested that all Members of the Council be fully briefed on the Fund.

Russells Hall Hospital Parking and Transport Issues

17. The Board, at its meeting held on 11th December, 2014 considered a report on ongoing parking and transport issues and Ms B Coombes (Area Manager – Centro) and Mr R Graves (Dudley Group of Hospitals) were in attendance to answer queries and concerns. Arising from consideration of the report, in particular, with regard to the plans for additional car parking spaces for the hospital, it was commented that certain Council processes potentially created barriers to developments. It was considered that the Council should take a pragmatic view in applying any local planning policies which were within the discretion of the Local Authority. In conclusion the Board recommended that Cabinet support proposals being developed by Dudley Group of Hospitals Trust to create additional staff car parking facilities on land adjacent to the hospital to benefit all users of the hospital and the wider community. This recommendation was reported to Cabinet on 11th February, 2015.

Structure of Scrutiny Committees for 2015/16

18. Discussions have taken place with regard to the format of Scrutiny Committees for the ensuing Municipal Year and a report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 26th March, 2015. Approval has been given to establish a Scrutiny Committee structure for the 2015/16 Municipal Year which is aligned to the new Strategic Directorate structure. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will continue to co-ordinate corporate scrutiny activity and the Health Scrutiny Committee will continue with its current statutory role. Recommendations will be submitted to the Annual meeting of the Council in 2015. This will include necessary changes to the Council's constitution. Chief Officers will be allocated as Lead Officers for Scrutiny Committees for the new municipal year.

Annual Scrutiny Programme 2015/16

19. Preliminary consideration is being given to the Annual Scrutiny Programme 2015/16. The development of the Annual Scrutiny Programme will continue to be a member-led process taking account of the views of Directorates, Scrutiny Chairs and others. Scrutiny Committees will retain some discretion over the number of topics they wish to scrutinise, however, the workloads of Committees needs to remain manageable and focussed on strategic outcomes.

The Annual Scrutiny Programme for 2015/16 will be formally approved at the first meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board following the annual meeting of the Council in May, 2015.

In considering the ongoing Scrutiny arrangements Members are mindful of national issues particularly those relating to certain information contained in the Kerlake Review concerning the recommendation to reduce the number of Scrutiny Committees at Birmingham City Council from nine to no more than three and that Members roles need to be clearly defined and better supported to include appropriate training.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) has also submitted its evidence to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee (CLG) supporting calls for a national review of the effectiveness of local governance and scrutiny, and have made recommendations for the scope of such a review. The CfPS are mindful about the different ways in which party politics impacts on the effectiveness of and are requesting that the CLG gather evidence in this regard.

Members might also be aware of details contained in the Professor Alexis Jay publication on the Independent Inquiry into the history and exposure of child sexual exploitation in Rotherham together with the subsequent Louise Casey report on the inspection of the Council. Key issues contained within the Casey report relate to a lack of scrutiny over the police's actions; Members being overly-reliant on Officers; Members not challenging tenaciously enough to ensure improvements; officer reports not always presenting the facts in an easily accessible way. It was stated that sometimes officers painted too positive a picture of Council performance, or omitted important facts in their reports, that might have led to greater awareness and scrutiny by Members.

Members are also reminded about information contained in the Robert Francis report arising from an extensive inquiry into failings at Mid-Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust which highlighted a whole system failure. The report contained numerous recommendations with major implications for all levels of the health service across England.

An informal meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management board is being held during April to reflect on the above issues and to consider these in the context of developing our future Annual Scrutiny Programme.

Finance

20. The costs of operating the Council's scrutiny arrangements are being contained within existing budgetary allocations.

The ongoing budget reductions will undoubtedly have an impact on the levels of Directorate and Democratic Services support that is available for the scrutiny process. Moving forward into 2015/16, consideration has to be given to the availability of corporate and directorate resources to service and support working groups, meetings and various levels of scrutiny activity.

Law

- 21. Scrutiny Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

Scrutiny powers relating to health are included in the Health and Social Care Acts 2001 and 2012, and associated Regulations and statutory guidance. The Police and Justice Act 2006 gives the Council powers to scrutinise the work of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, and the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables local authorities to scrutinise other partners. Much of this legislation has now been consolidated in the Localism Act 2011.

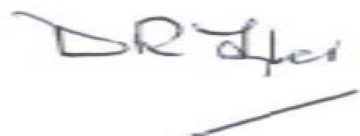
The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Article 6 of the Constitution (Scrutiny Committees) and the associated Scrutiny Procedure Rules and Protocols.

Equality Impact

- 22. Provision exists within the scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

Recommendation

- 23. That the annual report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for 2014/15 be received and noted.



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Councillor D Tyler
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board