

## **SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL**

### **Suggested Topics for Review**

**2017/2018**

#### **Economic Development Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel (EDCL)**

At the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel (EDCL) held on 15<sup>th</sup> September the following items were put forward for consideration by the Scrutiny Management Panel, in this preferred order:

1. **The Port**

To receive an update on what is happening at the Commercial Ferry Port, including the city as an attraction/cruise destination, inviting the new Port Manager to attend as well as navy, business and tourism representatives. This would also include the wider 'port' such as Flathouse Quay. To investigate the importance of the port to the local economy and the panel would invite key businesses to attend, such as MMD.

2. **The University of Portsmouth**

The effect of having a growing university in the city, to encourage a cohesive relationship between students and residents, to balance perceptions with the economic benefits. This would include links with schools and students from the local area to raise academic expectations and increase the sub-regional skill-base. (It was noted that a previous EDCL review had included the University as a witness in the Volunteering Opportunities review.)

3. **Creative Industries**

This had been the reserve topic from the previous municipal year, for which the remit had been:

"To look at the economic value of creativity in the city and its potential as a strong growth area. To consider Arts Council funding opportunities and the expanded use of council owned buildings to expand on the success of projects such as the ARTches and to encourage the participation of young people in community arts events."

The panel members wished to stress that all three topics would include the theme of local employment and connecting to investment in jobs in the city.

## **Education Children & Young Persons' Scrutiny Panel (ECYP)**

The ECYP scrutiny panel met on 11 July and agreed to put forward the following topics to SMP:

- (1) School attendance and part time timetables.** To review strategy to improve school attendance. As part of this, the review will look at how children on part time timetables are supported to resume full time attendance as early as possible. It will also consider home schooling, which has doubled over the last few years both in Portsmouth and nationally. It will investigate the reasons why parents are choosing to home educate their children and how their progress and safety can be monitored. The review will also look into how schools deal with complaints from parents about their child's education and **any links with decisions to remove the child from school.**
  
- (2) The council's offer to vulnerable adolescents.** This review will look at the early help and safeguarding support provided to teenagers and their families, and the support for teenagers in care, including young people who go missing. A recent peer review of the early help offer considered that this area could be strengthened; demand for statutory social care services for teenagers has also increased over the last 12 months. The review will look at prevention as well as early help, including education and support in schools around substance misuse and mental health.

## **Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel (HSC)**

This panel met on 14 September 2017 and the Chair drafted the following note concerning its conclusions on the previous topic -"Housing Need and Empty Properties in Portsmouth and the impact of Government Policy"

"Note to Scrutiny Management Panel

This note is to explain the actions taken at this meeting regarding the scrutiny review into housing need in the city and the impact of Government policy on it.

At this meeting, Panel members unanimously decided to suspend the review indefinitely. This was on the advice of the Interim Director of Property and Housing, the Chief Finance Officer for the Housing Department, the Private Sector Housing Manager, the Senior Housing Options Manager and her Deputy.

Their advice was that they did not know whether any or all of the policies outlined in the Housing White Paper earlier this year would be implemented as a result of the General Election. As this paper formed the backbone of Government policy during the review period, they felt this meant the review could not come to any meaningful conclusions as they did not know what impact Government policy would have. They could not offer any date as to when Government would be able to offer any clarity.

Similar advice had been circulated to all Panel members ahead of the meeting for comment. There was none before the Panel met.

The Chair asked Panel colleagues whether a paper on housing need could be presented to Cabinet. Cllrs Denny, Madden and Weymss - the other Panel members present - all said any such paper would not have any meaning as it would not fulfil the terms of the review. On that basis, the Panel unanimously decided to suspend the review indefinitely and start work on the topics presented to you today, subject to your agreement."

The Panel put forward the following topics to SMP:-

- (1) Provision of Learning & Disability Accommodation** - This review will look to evaluate the current provision of learning and disability accommodation for adults and gain an understanding of the potential to extend the current provision and develop an accommodation offer for adults with a wider range of social and health care needs. As part of the review, the panel will consider whether supported housing improves outcomes for people with a learning disability, whether the number of young people with a learning disability is increasing, whether demand for this type of housing will increase and whether this model of housing could be used to help others with a support need.
- (2) Provision of Domiciliary Care** - The scope for this review has not been fully worked up as it was put forward at the meeting itself. The Panel suggested this review could look at how serious the domiciliary care problem is and whether it is an area that PCC should consider taking "in-house". The review could also look into domiciliary care provision for those discharged from hospital.

**The Panel would also like to recommend that Scrutiny Management Panel urgently reviews the outcomes of the recommendations made by the review into "Hospital Discharge Arrangements in Portsmouth" undertaken in 2013/14.**

### **Transport Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (TECS)**

The SMP is asked to note that this Panel will continue their review "**General parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies**"