

## **Strategic Planning & Environment OSC Annual Review 2019-20**

The committee held 7 meetings covering a variety of topics. The agenda and minutes for each of these meetings are freely available on the Council's website.

The committee regularly scrutinises budget preparations and quarterly reports from other departments in the Council, which is a core part of its role in the democratic process. These are all invariably well presented reports and I would like especially to commend those from the Finance & Resources for clarity and from Environmental Services for the entrepreneurial spirit emanating from Cupid Green.

The Council has been extremely busy preparing the new Local Plan and as a result the committee has dealt with a large number of planning matters. Unfortunately, perhaps because of the extra pressure on Officers that was further exacerbated by the Covid 19 lockdown, some reports only just met or even arrived after the statutory date for publication. This makes proper scrutiny difficult and agenda rescheduling in future a necessary possibility.

In addition to quarterly reports, the principle topics dealt with by the committee were;

Car Parking Planning Policy	18/06/19
Building Control	18/06/19
Air Quality	18/06/19
Economic Development	29/10/19
South West Herts. Joint Strategic Plan	29/10/19
Corporate & Contractual Services	13/11/19
Hemel Garden Communities	28/01/20
Events Policy	28/01/20
Draft Strategic Design Guide	22/04/20

Also, The Expansion of Luton Airport and Fly Tipping were matters frequently aired by members and these topics will require further attention from the committee later this year.

I would like to thank the Vice-Chairman, (particularly for chairing the meeting for which I was unavailable), the Committee, Portfolio Holders and Officers for their support.

I would also like specifically to thank Sharon Burr for taking the minutes of our meetings.

Councillor J R Birnie

Chairman, Strategic Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

03/07/2020