

Strategic Planning & Environment OSC Annual Review 2021-22

The committee held 11 meetings covering a variety of topics. The committee regularly scrutinises budget preparations and quarterly reports from relevant departments in the Council, which is a core part of its role in the democratic process. These are invariably well presented reports and I would like especially to commend those from the Finance & Resources for clarity and from Environmental Services for the comprehensive nature of the reports from Cupid Green in particular.

The Council has had to cope with both the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, staff shortages, upgrading software and the continuing preparation of the New Local Plan. Therefore the environmental services, waste services and planning departments (in particular planning enforcement) have been under extreme pressure. Since these departments fall under the aegis of SP&E OSC, it has been a very busy period for the committee, which has been obliged to schedule some extra meetings. In fact a total of 11 meetings were held and the minutes for each of these meetings are freely available on the Council's website.

In addition to quarterly reports for the departments which come under the remit of this OSC, the principle topics dealt with by each of these meetings are shown in the table below.

| DATE | TOPICS |
|-------------|---|
| 27/04/21 | Water & sewerage resources/S.W.Herts Joint Strategic Plan |
| 15/06/2021 | Gadebridge Park development/Abandoned vehicles policy |
| 30/06/2021 | New Local Plan consultation results and progress |
| 07/07/2021 | Planning enforcement/Dacorum waste management/Fly tipping |
| 22/09/2021 | Test & trace involvement/Open spaces policy |
| 02/11/2021 | DBC's Climate emergency response |
| 24/11/2021 | Hemel Garden Communities/Town centre strategy/Economic development |
| 01/12/2021 | Annual draft budget consideration |
| 11/01/2022 | Fire safety policy/Developer contributions to infrastructure |
| 02/02/2022 | Annual final budget consideration |
| 16/03/2022 | Luton airport expansion/Employment & skills strategic planning document |

I would like to thank the Vice-Chairman, the Committee members, Portfolio Holders and Officers for their support.

Councillor J R Birnie

Chairman, Strategic Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

31/03/2022