

**Aspire & Prosper  
Scrutiny Committee  
2016/17 Annual Report**

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## **Introduction**

2016/17 has been a busy year for the committee covering a wide range of topics.

I think the committee has worked well together with full cross party cooperation on topics such as the Wilnecote Board School's item that was brought to scrutiny and wasn't on the original work plan.

This was a good demonstration the role scrutiny can play in good governance concluding in a recommendation to cabinet based on the evidence gathered.

Other topics covered included new business support offer, the Borough's litter prevention strategy and the on-going review of the castles offer.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> June 2016**

### **Work plan for 2016/17**

The committee agreed to scrutinise several items during 2016/17

- Review of Tamworth Litter prevention strategy
- High conception rates in under 18's
- Provision of post-16 education and training in Tamworth
- Analysis of new business support in Tamworth
- Tamworth tourism & heritage offer including transport, infrastructure & town centre parking
- Strategic investment fund
- West Midlands Combined Authority

## **28<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

### **Work Programme Proposal**

A review of the scoping document that had been previously used had taken place. A new Work Programme Proposal form was introduced at this meeting as its replacement.

### **Review of Tamworth litter prevention strategy**

A discussion took place around a briefing note that was sent from the Head of Environmental Management outlining the activities and support that the Borough Council offers in relation to reducing litter in the Borough, a number of questions were generated for response.

### **High conception rates in under 18's**

The committee was informed that a joint scrutiny meeting was to be arranged with the Healthier and Safer scrutiny committee at a convenient time.

**12<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

**Tamworth litter prevention strategy**

Updates were given to the committee that answers to specific questions had been received and that these would be circulated.

**Provision of Post-16 education and training in Tamworth**

The committee received a presentation from Karen Adderley, Head of commissioning & partnerships with regard to the area review of the Staffordshire wide college system.

It was agreed that nothing could be planned until the report had been formally completed and issued.

**Wilnecote School building**

The committee reviewed the work plan proposal that had been tabled and agreed that it would be better to form a working group to look at all the evidence surrounding the building.

**23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016**

**Tamworth litter prevention strategy**

It was agreed that the monitoring systems that were being used demonstrated that litter was well below the national average and also that of our peer towns. The committee felt that the department was performing well with the resources available and that Tamworth Borough Council were doing everything they could to keep Tamworth clean and as a result, no recommendations were formally made.

**Wilnecote School building**

After two very successful working group meetings that gathered evidence from all relevant parties a recommendation was made that would go to a future cabinet meeting.

The committee unanimously supported the motion that 'The Aspire & Prosper committee, having considered the available evidence recommend to cabinet to consider local listing of the Wilnecote School

building and investigate the associated costs in adding an Article 4 direction which removes permitted development rights for demolition’.

### **Analysis of new business support in Tamworth**

The committee was advised that a meeting had taken place with the senior economic development & regeneration officer and a presentation and report would be coming for analysis at a future meeting.

## **18<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

### **Wilnecote School building**

The committee was informed that the recommendation previously made would be going before cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### **High conception rates in under 18’s**

The committee was briefed on the findings of the multiple agency centre (MAC) report that was presented to the joint scrutiny committee by Tim Lees on the 4<sup>th</sup> October and a joint working group set up with the Healthier & Safer committee.

### **Tamworth tourism & heritage offer including transport, infrastructure & town centre parking**

The committee agreed to form a working group to look at some of the issues around this topic.

**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016**

**Analysis of new business support in Tamworth**

A presentation was given with regard to this subject by the Head of Managed Growth, Regeneration and Development, Matt Bowers; this followed with a discussion on the subject and prompted a number of comments. It was generally accepted that Tamworth Borough Council had good measures in place to support local new business start ups.

**Tamworth tourism & heritage offer including transport, infrastructure & town centre parking**

The committee was briefed on the working group that had taken place and informed that someone would be coming to the committee in the future to discuss the item.

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

**Tamworth tourism & heritage offer**

The committee discussed some of the points that had been raised at the previous working group with regard to the Castle. The Portfolio holder for Environment and Culture (Joy Goodall) and the Leader of the Council (Danny Cook) were both invited to answer some particular questions and informed that a Castle review was ongoing. It was agreed that an interim briefing on the castle review should be brought to the scrutiny committee as soon as available.

The committee agreed that the focus of this scrutiny item be towards the Castle and it was agreed that Town Centre parking was to be looked at as a separate item on the work plan.

**7<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Town Centre Car Parking**

The Leader of the Council Danny Cook was invited to answer questions posed by the committee on the current situation with regard to town centre parking strategy. The committee were advised to gather further evidence to take this topic forward.

**11 April 2017**

The agenda for this meeting will be confirmed in due course; however the interim report on the castle review will be one of the items coming to the committee.

Cllr Simon Goodall – Chairman  
Aspire & Prosper scrutiny committee