

Council

20th July 2021

Report of the Chair

Annual Report of the Infrastructure Safety & Growth Scrutiny Committee

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To provide full Council with an overview of the work and activities undertaken by the Infrastructure Safety & Growth (IS&G) Scrutiny Committee during the year 2020/21. The draft Annual Report was received by the Committee at its final meeting in the last municipal year and any updates agreed by the Chair following that meeting.

Executive Summary

This report covers the following:

- Chair's Overview
- Working Groups
- Recommendations made in the year to Cabinet
- Committee Terms of Reference
- Membership and Attendance
- Training & Effectiveness
- Work Plan
- Resource implications

Recommendations

Council is requested to:

- Note the Annual Report of the Committee;

Chair's Overview

This year, as result of the COVID-19 pandemic, has seen all the Committee's meetings move to online (remote) meetings. To accommodate this, careful consideration has been given to agenda content for each meeting and to the scheduling of additional meetings where necessary.

The Committee met six times in the 2020/21 municipal year. One meeting (13th October 2020) was cancelled, however, an additional meeting was then scheduled in February 2021 to manage the number of agenda items to be considered in the early part of 2021.

In terms of the work of the Committee during 2020/21 municipal year, this has included:

1. Policy Development and /or Review

This is where the Committee has contributed to the Council's policy development processes and / or where the Committee has considered the implementation of policies and feeding back scrutiny views to Cabinet.

The Committee has reviewed, and (in some cases) made Policy Development recommendations in the following areas:

(a) CCTV Service

Following consideration by the Committee of the planned modernisation of the future service delivery for CCTV in the previous municipal year, at its February 2021 meeting the Committee received a post implementation review. A presentation was received from the Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Community Safety, the Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, the Head of Housing Management & Neighbourhood Resilience and the Head of Safety, Security and Emergency Planning at West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA). The Committee sought and received clarification in several areas including:

1. Partnership working with the police in respect of the implementation and ongoing delivery of the CCTV service as a tool for the police and the funding of digital access for the police;
2. The local knowledge of the CCTV operators;
3. The extent of cross border collaboration;
4. Location of cameras and Quality assurance / accreditation;
5. Deployable cameras; and
6. Working with other partners, including the police and county council.

(b) Electric Vehicle Charging

This item had also been considered in the previous municipal year and recommendations at that time had been made to Cabinet. The Committee had been scheduled to receive an update on progress at its 31 March 2020 meeting, which was cancelled.

This item was considered at the first meeting in the 2020/21 municipal year including receipt of a report providing on update on progress. The Committee discussed various aspects of the project including the work being undertaken at Staffordshire County Council and requested that further information was sought from other district and borough councils who had started their journey to support electric vehicle charging points.

The Committee made five recommendations to Cabinet.

(c) Castle Update

The Committee received an update on the Castle review, following several updates over previous years. It was reported that an external and more commercial view of the opportunities for the Castle had been undertaken. The key findings of the review and the next steps required were presented. The Committee endorsed the work undertaken and made a further recommendation to Cabinet to defer its consideration of the Castle Review until the relevant financials (including cost / benefit analysis) were available.

(d) Future Provision of the Dry Recycling Service – Update and Preliminary Options Appraisal

At its meeting on 24th February 2021, the Committee received a report on the Future Provision of the Dry Re-cycling Services from the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Culture, the Chief Executive and the General Manager of the Waste Management Service. The update covered the current position on waste management, including the market for processing dry mixed recycling which had shifted dramatically, and presented some of the emerging options (together with risks and benefits) for the future provision of the dry recycling service. The Committee sought further clarifications including in respect of:

1. The extent of the competition in the market and the market for dry recycling;
2. Optionality in the framework contract; and
3. The split of dry recycling waste.

The Committee supported the drafting of a letter to encourage urgency in the decision making process related to the National Resource and Waste Strategy.

2. Monitoring (scrutiny)

This is where the Committee has undertaken monitoring of the Council's performance and progress.

In particular the Terms of Reference for this Committee set out the specific areas for scrutiny which include:

To provide effective scrutiny of the achievement of the Council's strategic priorities and external providers in securing the primary outcome of creating a safe and sustaining thriving local economy and making Tamworth a more aspirational and competitive place to do business, with a focus on:

- Infrastructure
- Education
- Employment/Inward Investment
- Town Centre
- Open Space and Play
- Public Space Protection Orders

Statutory Crime and Disorder obligation; the Committee shall act as the Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 and may co-opt additional members subject to the Crime and Disorder Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

To undertake such other scrutiny activities, relevant to the committee's scope, as may be required in relation to the performance of the Council, governance, financial management and discharge of statutory functions.

At each meeting the Committee received and considered the Forward Plan to assist in its identification of whether there are any forthcoming key decisions which the Committee determined that it would scrutinise, either pre decision or post decision.

Examples of areas which were identified for the Committee's scrutiny as a result of regular Forward Plan consideration were; ICT Strategy, CIL Spending and Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking statement.

Over the year 2020/21, areas scrutinised included:

(a) Community Safety Plan and Tamworth Police Update (x2)

The Committee considered the draft 2020-2023 Community Safety Partnership Plan and received a Police and Partnership Update from the Tamworth NPT Police Commander at its July 2020 meeting. The Tamworth Police Update had been deferred from the cancelled March 2020 meeting.

The presentation from the Tamworth NPT Commander focussed on policing areas which contributed to the priorities in the Community Safety Plan, as well as recent activities related to COVID-19 and the BLM protests.

Following consideration of the Tamworth Community Safety Plan 2020-2023, the Committee recommended to Cabinet that it endorse the plan.

At the March 2021 meeting the Committee received:

- An update on the Tamworth Community Safety Partnership Plan, which included an update on Modern Slavery and human trafficking; and
- A further Tamworth Police Update from the Tamworth Police Commander and Deputy Commander.

This second presentation to the Committee included the Community Safety Plan priorities, which would be presented to Cabinet at a later date, and from the Police Commander focussed on crime figures for the Tamworth area, Anti-social behaviour, road safety, police engagement with the local community during the COVID pandemic and looking forwards, and work to detect and prevent County Lines activities.

(b) Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO)

Under the Council's PSPO process, the Committee is required to consider consultation evidence received as part of any proposal to introduce or renew a PSPO, and if appropriate endorse the order prior to the Portfolio Holder using his delegated powers to approve it. During the year 2020/2021 this Committee considered and endorsed for adoption the renewal of two PSPOs; Tamworth Dog Control and Alcohol Control in Public Space.

(c) ICT Strategy Briefing

The Committee received an update on the ICT Strategy, which set out the IT vision, principles and strategic themes. At the point that this was considered by the Committee in September, this strategy was a working document. A working group of two members was formed which received further updates on the strategy as it developed and before it was due to be presented to Cabinet in April 2021 for approval.

(d) Matters referred from Cabinet or Council (Fireworks Motion)

Following receipt of a motion from members, full Council referred two recommendations to the Committee for their consideration, and the Committee agreed to form a working group to progress this item.

(e) Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Spending

At its meeting in March 2021, an update was received from the Assistant Director, Growth & Regeneration, prior to consideration of a report by Cabinet at its meeting on 8 April 2021.

This report summarised the proposals for the application of CIL funds within the statutory framework. The Committee sought and received clarification on how the process could work with neighbouring authorities.

The Committee recommended the Report to Cabinet.

(f) Future High Street Fund

In the 2019/2020 municipal year, this Committee had actively reviewed the Future High Street Fund work prior to submission of the Outline Business Case to Government. Following the successful bid, which was announced in December 2020, at its meeting in March 2021, the Committee received an update from the Portfolio Holder which focussed on the mobilisation phase.

3. **Call-in**

This is where a decision of the Executive has been called in to be considered by a scrutiny committee, after a Cabinet decision has been made but ahead of its implementation, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

No decisions have been called in to date.

Working Groups

Several working groups had been formed during the year, and some could continue into the next calendar year. The Groups formed were:

Working Groups		
Topic	Possible WG Members	Target IS&G Com meeting date
ICT Strategy	SG, PS	Work completed and reported to March 2021 meeting
Fireworks	Open to all	June 2021
Events	SP, RB, AF, PB, SG	

Recommendations made to and Responses received from Cabinet

Recommendations were made to Cabinet on the following Reports and Cabinet's response is highlighted:

Scrutiny meeting item	Cabinet Response
Electric Vehicle Charging recommendations – 8 th July 2020 meeting	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on 30th July 2020, it was resolved that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Chose operating Model 2 2 Agreed a further marketing exercise to secure a supplier / operator is carried out with Council Officers given delegated authority to offer financial incentives in the form of low rental value and / or a financial contribution towards the capital cost 3 Agreed to a private sector location on the Ventura retail parks is investigated 4 Agreed an Action Plan is developed that focuses on new on-street fast charging sites and on-street residential charging sites 5 Agreed that Electric vehicle charging infrastructure is installed in the borough by the end of the municipal year 2020/21 as a target date.
Community Safety Plan 2020-23 – 8 th July 2020 meeting	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on 30th July 2020, it was resolved that Cabinet endorsed the Tamworth Community Safety Plan 2020-2023 for publication.</p>
Castle Update – 24 th November 2020 meeting	<p>At the Cabinet meeting on 3 December 2020 Cabinet resolved that consideration of the Castle Review report be deferred from 17 December 2020 meeting to a later meeting of Cabinet to allow the report to be considered by Cabinet to include relevant financials (including cost / benefit analysis).</p>
CIL Spending – 25 March 2021 meeting	<p>The Committee's recommendations to approve the CIL Spending report were presented to 8 April 2021 Cabinet meeting.</p>

Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee Terms of Reference are set out in Article 6 in the Constitution which can be accessed [here](#).

The Primary Scope, the General Role and the Specific functions detailed in the Constitution have been largely achieved through the Committee's work this year.

Members and Members Attendance

The following sets out the membership and attendance of members at the 6 Committee meetings during 2020/21.

Please note that the Councillor R Kingston retired from the Committee in July and Councillor P Standen joined the Committee at that point and therefore their attendances are recorded out of the number of meetings they were eligible to attend.

Member	Number of meetings attended
Simon Goodall (Chair)	6 out of 6
Alex Farrell (Vice-Chair)	6 out of 6
Marie Bailey	5 out of 6
Robert Bilcliff	5 out of 6
Paul Brindley	6 out of 6
Tina Clements	6 out of 6
Richard Kingston (out of 1)	1 out of 1
Patrick Standen (out of 5)	4 out of 5
Simon People	6 out of 6
Peter Thurgood	6 out of 6

Training and Effectiveness

A Chairs and Vice-Chairs online training session was held in early June 2020. This training was provided by an external provider and focussed on chairing skills generally and, more particularly, chairing remote (online) meetings.

In early November 2020, a Successful Scrutiny online training session was held. This was led by a different external provider and the workshop was designed to bring together scrutiny councillors, cabinet members, other members and senior officers to consider how to ensure scrutiny is successful and effective in Tamworth. It provided an overview of key aspects of successful scrutiny, including clarifying purpose and roles, understanding critical processes such as developing a strategic direction, prioritising a work programme and ensuring impact.

Work Plan - Items identified for next municipal year

The existing Committee Work Plan is appended as Appendix 1.

Please note that it is expected that the activities of the Committee may be impacted by the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.

Resource Implications

None identified.

Report Author

Councillor S Goodall
Chair of the IS&G Scrutiny Committee

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Committee’s Work Plan

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Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Work Plan

Work Plan 2020 - 2021		
DATE	SUBJECT	
Quarterly updates	Future High Street Fund (Growth) – Quarterly updates – starting March 2021	
June / July 2021	Consideration of State of Tamworth Debate items	
xxx 2021	Modern Slavery update	
xxx 2021	EV Charging update	
xxx 2021	Business Crime Reduction Partnership Update	
xxx 2021	E-Scouters and E-Bikes	
September 2021	CCTV update	
Sept / Oct 2021	Kettlebrook and Bolehall Public Space Protection Orders	
xxx 2022	Review of Taxi Licensing Policy – Points System	
When clarity on legislation	Fire Safety Update	
Working Groups		
Topic	Possible WG Members	Target IS&G Com meeting date
ICT Strategy	SG, PS	
Fireworks	Open to all	June 2021
Events	SP, RB, AF, PB, SG	

Upcoming Infrastructure, Safety and Growth Scrutiny Committee Meetings
<i>Dates to be confirmed</i>