

COUNCIL MEETING – 19TH APRIL 2018

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7 (1)

**BOROUGH SERVICES POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL –
ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In accordance with provisions set out in the Constitution, this Report reviews the work that has been carried out by the Borough Services Policy and Review Panel in 2017/18.

2. **PORTFOLIO AND WORK PROGRAMME**

2.1 The main areas of responsibility for the Panel are as follows:

- **Portfolio – Leader of the Council**
 - Community planning and strategic partnerships
- **Portfolio – Safety and Regulation**
 - Community safety (including anti-social behaviour)
 - Environmental health policy relating to licensing, food, health and safety, pollution, environmental control and the provision and regulation of caravan sites
- **Portfolio – Concessions and Community Support**
 - Democratic renewal and community involvement
 - Electoral issues
 - Concessions and supporting local organisations
 - Accessibility

2.2 The mid-cycle meeting has continued to provide an effective forum for discussion and consideration of the Panel's processes and priorities. It has also provided a method of sifting items and to manage the Panel's agenda.

2.3 The work programme for 2017/18 has covered a cross-section of the key areas of the portfolios. The majority of the projects encompassed both scrutiny / overview and policy development.

3. **PANEL ISSUES**

3.1 The principal items which have been examined in 2017/18 were as follows:

(a) **Community Safety –**

The Panel continued to give a high priority to the overview and scrutiny of crime and disorder matters. In January, the Panel was updated on the issues around rough sleeping, street drinking and anti-social behaviour in the Borough. Members were advised of the measures in place to deal with the issues and will continue to keep a watching brief on the situation.

(b) **Environmental Health Policy –**

• **Food Safety –**

At its meeting in June, the Panel scrutinised the Council's provision of Food Safety Services. This included an update on the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement and the Food Law Code of Practice. The service carried out both reactive and proactive work and had commercialised some areas of its work through selling support packages to local businesses, and offered training courses.

(c) **Citizens' Advice Rushmoor –**

In September, the Panel was given a presentation on the working arrangements of the Citizens' Advice service in Rushmoor, as part of its ongoing work to monitor and scrutinise organisations in receipt of Council grants.

(d) **Elections Review Update –**

The Panel was given an update on the progress of the current Elections Review which is using systems thinking principles, at its meeting in September. The Panel noted the work carried out to date. Further updates will be provided through the Elections Group.

(e) **Fire Safety Issues –**

In response to a Notice of Motion on fire safety issues, following the Grenfell Tower disaster and the provision within the Borough to deal with fire safety issues has been examined in detail. The Panel met with the representatives from the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and representatives from Accent Housing at its meeting in November. The Panel held an in depth discussion on the issues that were raised and felt that the Fire Service within Rushmoor operated at a high level and was well equipped to deal with fire safety matters. The Panel felt reassured by the professional presentation and approaches described

(f) **Rushmoor Voluntary Services –**

In March, the Panel received a presentation on the working arrangements of Rushmoor Voluntary Services. The Panel noted the current areas of work, in

particular around new legislation on General Data Protection Regulations, Hampshire County Council funding and community transport.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The Panel has carried out a wide range of tasks during the year and has been effective in providing input into a number of major projects and strategic priorities for the Council. The Panels work programme, which contains some issues still be to examined, will be picked up in the new governance structure.

4.2 I would like to thank all members of the Panel and officers for their support.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 The Council is asked to note and endorse the Panel's work.

A.R. NEWELL
CHAIRMAN
BOROUGH SERVICES POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL