

Service & Resource Planning 2013/14-2016/17 - Scrutiny Committees comments

Scrutiny Committee	Comments on the proposals	Other Actions agreed
Adults' Services	<p>The committee AGREED the proposals outlined in the paper, and made the additional recommendation that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pressure included in error (Increase in Care Home Fees - 14SCS11) should be removed from the papers with the savings absorbed in the older people's pool (14SCS5). 	<p>The committee expressed concerns over:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent increase in demand and the fact that the reasons are not fully understood. • The assumption that the trend of increasing demand for care home placements will be reversed. • The difficulties in quantifying the impact of preventative services. <p>The committee applauded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aspiration to increase the use of preventative services and early interventions. • The fact that the eligibility criteria for services will remain at substantial/critical. • The actions in place to alleviate demand-led pressures, including the Discharge to Assess programme. • The move towards a mixed provision of residential care, with greater emphasis on Extra Care Housing. • The aspiration to produce a robust model to estimate future demand. • The aspiration to better understand the impact of preventative services.
Children's Services	<p>Overall, the committee accepts the proposals.</p>	<p>From the discussion in the meeting the committee decided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee will monitor the progress towards the introduction of the extra social workers as part of its

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		<p>on-going programme of work for 2013/14.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee would play an active role in the upcoming review of Children's Centres, given the shaping of the membership, principles and terms of reference of the member-led group. • The reduction in the School Improvement Service and its re-shaping in response to more schools becoming academies will be considered as a future item for the work programme. • Budget changes relating to national policy would be continually monitored, especially with regard to the Southwark Judgement and All Rights Exhausted. • The capital discussion will take place as part of the next full committee meeting scheduled for 28th February.
<p>Growth & Infrastructure</p>	<p>The committee broadly supported the budget proposals for the services within its remit.</p>	<p>Further matters of note included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some committee members expressed regret at the refocusing and subsequent removal of the Area Stewards fund, whilst acknowledging that reductions in funding necessitated that resources were focused on maintenance of the council's existing highways assets. • It was agreed that the service and community impact assessment for the introduction of day time parking charges at the county council park and ride locations would be modified to incorporate the impact of the proposals on rural residents who use the council's park and ride locations when travelling to and from the city. • The committee noted the administration's

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		<p>aspiration to employ smart phone technology as a means of accessing all public travel methods across the county.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that proposals for park and ride charges would be subject to full public consultation. • Members applauded the work undertaken by officers to generate income through its services rendered to developers, and requested that further opportunities for income generation be explored.
Safer & Stronger Communities	<p>The committee AGREED to support the business strategies, savings proposals and pressures for the relevant service areas taking account of the Service and Community Impact Assessments.</p>	<p>In giving their support, members stated they wished to note the difficulty of working to make decisions without being in full receipt of all information from Central Government, regarding available funding.</p> <p>The committee recognised that planned savings are being delivered, and although there are challenges ahead Officers are confident that the services are well placed to address them.</p>
Strategy & Partnerships	<p>The committee were happy to support the proposed pressures and savings. They noted that, in the main, the savings proposed were on the basis of the reduced size of the council overall.</p>	<p>The committee were disappointed at the loss of the Big Society Fund base budget and urge Cabinet to reinstate this funding on a one-off basis if additional funding becomes available.</p> <p>They discussed a number of items and were keen to follow up on these as proposals are further developed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of the Customer Service Centre • Externalisation of customer services (support services not customer service centre) • Organisational development

