

Scrutiny Chair's Cycle 1 Report to Council

The Committee has held its first meeting of the year, and it was good to be able to welcome new members to the group.

We were presented with the 2016/17 Budget Outturn position, and it was reassuring to hear that the Finance Team had produced the Draft Statement of Accounts a week ahead of the Council's own schedule, and well ahead of external deadlines. This bodes well for the 2017/18 year, when the external deadline will be shortened considerably. Can I just take this opportunity to remind members that there will be a workshop about the Draft Statement of Accounts held on 19th July 2017.

The committee also noted the treasury management report, which outlined the Council's borrowing and investments for 2016/17. The treasury management strategy contributed to savings of over £180k for the Council last year, through reduced interest payments, and receiving more interest than expected on investments. The Committee will continue to review quarterly revenue budget, capital budget and treasury management monitoring reports throughout the year.

We received the Q4 performance report. There were many highlights in this report, and it was great to see that colleagues are still delivering quality services to residents despite reduced budgets. There have been challenges – IT infrastructure and systems being one. However, the Council continues to work with its strategic partner to resolve issues.

It has been a quiet time for our review group, due to the two recent elections. However, we will be meeting with representatives from the rail operator shortly, and aim to finish off the review before the end of the year.

As the review workload has decreased, we have begun to seek out other topics and projects to take forward as future review areas. Members are currently developing proposals for topics which will then be considered by the Committee.