



**REPORT TO:** Cabinet 1 May 2019  
**FROM:** Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview Committee  
Councillor Brian Milnes, Vice Chairman, Scrutiny and Overview Committee

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### **Update from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Chairman**

#### **Purpose**

1. This report is to inform Cabinet of the discussions of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at its meeting of 16 April 2019, which Cabinet may wish to take into account in its decision making.

#### **Purchase of Investment Property**

2. In response to a request from the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Chairman, the committee received a briefing from the Executive Director (Corporate Services) responding to specific questions in relation to the purchase of 140 Cambridge Science Park. Committee members were broadly supportive of the decision to purchase.

#### **ICT Working Group update**

3. A meeting of the ICT Working Group is being scheduled to take place at the start of May to take stock of the findings to date and fully understand the implications of answers given by officers in relation to the shared ICT service, at the March Scrutiny and Overview Committee meeting. Committee members were not satisfied by many of the answers given by officers at this meeting and concerns about the shared ICT service remain.
4. Members noted that the latest ICT outage at the City Council had impacted SCDC, as the publishing of the agenda for the Joint Development Control Committee meeting had been affected.
5. The committee is keen that its recommendation that an external party be appointed to develop an ICT Security Policy, is taken forward.

#### **Vision and Ambition for Scrutiny**

6. The committee will review the recommendations it has made during the last municipal year to establish which recommendations have been implemented and if they have not been, the reasons for this.
7. The committee discussed how to handle the volume of work it has. The option of forming sub-committees to share the workload was discussed, however this was not

supported by members who instead support retaining the current system that is in place. Members support the breadth of agendas and the option to form task and finish groups and working groups as appropriate. The committee identified its strength as the diversity of members of the committee who have a broad range of experience and expertise.

8. To help members navigate the breadth of agendas, the committee requested that where possible officers provide an Executive Summary in their reports. The committee would also like officer presentations which tease out the important information from the papers being presented.

#### **Work programme and task and finish groups**

9. The committee is interested in looking at the performance of the Planning service and the next meeting will discuss the set up of a task and finish group to take a detailed look at the Planning service.
10. The set up of a task and finish group to look at gypsy and traveller issues will also be discussed. At its March meeting, the committee had received a letter from Cambourne Town Council requesting urgent attention be given to illegal traveller encampments.

Report Author: Victoria Wallace, Scrutiny and Governance Adviser