

**ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR FEEDBACK REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Report to Overview Select Committee – 29 January 2019

Name of Meeting:	West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Steering Group Meeting
Date of Meeting:	26 November 2018
Report by:	Cllr Norman Dingemans – The Council's Nominated Representative
Relevant Cabinet Member:	Cllr Dudley Wensley – Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

A Joint Scrutiny Steering Group was set up across West Sussex in 2010/11. Attendees are the Overview and Scrutiny Chairmen of the participating councils, supported by an officer from West Sussex County Council and an officer representing all District/Borough Councils (currently Jackie Follis from ADC).

This Group has met six times and sought comments on issues by virtual means at other times.

Terms of Reference and Working Arrangements

At the meeting on 26 November 2018 the Steering Group reviewed the Joint Scrutiny Terms of Reference, protocol and working arrangements. It was agreed to streamline the processes to reflect the current working arrangements. The main changes were:

- to only hold Steering Group meetings when the need arises, rather than having a set timing for these to take place. This will make better use of resources as information will be shared virtually where appropriate.
- Scrutiny officers will meet on a regular basis to discuss work programmes and share best practice and up-coming issues.
- If a relevant project is identified for joint scrutiny, by either officers or Members, the steering group will be consulted for agreement. At this point the Group will decide whether to meet in person to discuss the project proposal and terms of reference or views will be sought and taken forward virtually.
- That there will be no standing Chairman for the Group but that a Chairman is appointed at each meeting.

Review of Joint Scrutiny Project on Housing for Care Leavers

At the meeting the Steering Group reviewed the Joint Scrutiny Project on Housing for Care Leavers, carried out through a task and finish group in 2016, information on this can be found [here](#) under updates. The purpose of the review was not to agree the recommendations, but to evaluate the process and if necessary recommend changes to working arrangements. It was agreed that:

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- In future Task and Finish Groups are not held during April/May to avoid election periods;
- A Vice-Chairman be appointed for all Task and Finish Groups;
- An up-date report be produced for presentation to the Joint Steering Group to outline what action has been taken since the review was completed. The Group would then decide whether further work was required

Topics for Future Joint Scrutiny

Two topics were discussed:

- **Supported Housing** – after a discussion it was determined that as this was already being scrutinised by the WSCC Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee in December 2018 it was therefore not an appropriate area for a joint scrutiny project at the moment.
- **Homelessness Reduction Act** – Members decided that this was a suitable topic for a future scrutiny review as it is relevant to all Authorities across the county. Members therefore requested that officers meet to consider the terms of reference for a review into this area and the best timing for a review to take place. The project should include a review of strategies being developed across the county to address the requirements of the Act.