

HOMEWORKING TASK & FINISH INQUIRY

Reason for this Report

1. To seek Committee's agreement to the commencement of an inquiry into Homeworking, and for the Terms of Reference that will form the focus of its work.

Background

2. The Committee has discussed its work programme for 2020/21 at both remote meetings since its restart in September 2020, during which capturing the experience of homeworking during the Covid-19 pandemic to inform future policy in delivering Council services was identified as a priority.
3. At its meeting on 13th October 2020, the Committee agreed to proceed with an inquiry into Homeworking across the Council. To date three Members have volunteered to undertake this inquiry on behalf of the Committee. Councillor Walker will chair the Task and Finish group, alongside Councillors Mackie and Bowen-Thompson.

Way Forward

4. Attached at **Appendix A** is a proposed Scoping Summary Sheet for the inquiry, setting out timescales, and potential contributors to the inquiry. Also

attached at **Appendix B** is a draft research proposal to support the work of the task group.

5. If any additional Member(s) wishes to put themselves forward for this task group please advise the scrutiny officer.

Legal Implications

6. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

7. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

8. The Committee is recommended to consider the Scope and the Research Proposal, and agree the Terms of Reference for the Homeworking task group inquiry.

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal

4 November 2020