

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Reasons for this Report

1. To update Members on the Community & Adult Services Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Plan.

Background

2. Scrutiny plays an essential role in promoting accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the Council's decision-making process and the way in which it delivers services. The main roles of the Scrutiny Committees are:
 - I. Holding to account the Cabinet and officers, as decision-makers.
 - II. Being a 'critical friend', questioning how decisions have been made, providing a 'check and balance' to decision makers and undertaking reviews of services and policy.
 - III. Providing a voice for citizens.
3. Good scrutiny practice and the Council's Constitution empowers each Scrutiny Committee to set its own work programme for the forthcoming year (Scrutiny Procedure Rule 7). Each Scrutiny Committee is tasked with constructing a work programme that ensures the time available to the Committee is used most effectively by considering items in a timely fashion that maximise the impact of scrutiny.

4. During July 2021, Committee Members held an informal work-programming forum to initiate work programming discussions. This informal forum took place on 27 July 2021 where Members considered known priorities and upcoming areas of work for the directorates to inform their deliberations.
5. Following this meeting, Committee considered and agreed the outline Work Programme during its September 2021 meeting.
6. Committee Members are aware the Committee's Work Programme is updated and amended during the year, and is required to respond to urgent priorities, policy developments, and unplanned pre-decision opportunities. The Work Programme has to remain flexible and responsive in order to cover any urgent issues occurring throughout the year.
7. The Work Programme is reviewed on a quarterly basis and subsequently published on the Council's website.
8. The Committee's Work Programme for January – March 2022 is attached to this report at **Appendix A**.
9. Committee Members are requested to note the attached Appendix and provide any comments or feedback they may have at the meeting.

Legal Implications

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

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- a. Note or comment on the attached Committee Work Programme which is to be published on the Council's website.
- b. Consider the update provided at Committee.

Davina Fiore

Director Governance & Legal

2 December 2021