ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 DECEMBER 2023

COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT

Purpose of the Report

- This report updates Members on a range of issues relating to the Children &
 Young People Scrutiny Committee. This report sets out the following:
 - An updated Work Programme 2023/24 for noting. (**Appendix A**).
 - The draft Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) Joint Scrutiny
 Task and Finish Group report for noting (Appendix B).

Work Programme 2022/23

2. This Scrutiny Committee agreed its work programme for 2023/24 at its meeting on the 6 July 2023. Since this meeting, further updates have emerged, and the Chair has therefore reviewed the work programme. Any changes are reflected in **Appendix A.**

Replacement Local Development Plan

- At its meeting on the11th May 2023, Members considered the Scrutiny Chairs
 request for expressions of interest to take part in a cross-scrutiny Inquiry as
 part of the next stage of the RLDP in relation to a consultation on the preferred
 strategic options.
- 4. Cllrs Gibson, Lancaster, and Lloyd Jones joined the Chair, Cllr Jones, in representing this committee.
- 5. The RDLP cross-committee group met on the 7th July 2023 to discuss how it could most effectively scrutinise this issue, given its breadth. The group agreed that prioritising three topics of focus would be most effective; and that smaller sub-groups be established to undertake this work.
- 6. The three priority topics agreed were:
 - Securing Planning Obligations/s106
 - Transport& Active Travel

- Local and District Centres
- 7. The timescales to which all three sub-groups worked to were:
 - Evidence Gathering October 2023
 - Drafting of key findings, recommendations and report November 2023
- 8. The cross-committee Group met on the 30 November 2023 to agree the report, before it is signed off by the Policy Review & Performance Scrutiny Committee (as lead committee) on the 13 December 2023, and prior to its submission to Cabinet on 18th January 2024.
- 9. This Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report set out in **Appendix B.**

Way Forward

- 10. During the meeting members will have an opportunity to consider:
 - the contents of the updated Work Programme in **Appendix A**.
 - the RLDP Joint Inquiry report attached at Appendix B.

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 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 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.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. note the contents of the amended Work Programme;
- ii. note the joint RLDP report.

LEANNE WESTON

Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

1st December 2023