

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS REPORT**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. This report updates Members on the development of the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2023/24 and asks members to note the draft Committee Pages at **Appendix A**.

**Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24**

2. The Council's Constitution requires all Scrutiny Committees to report annually to the Council on their work during the past year and make recommendations for future work programmes. Since 2021/22 this constitutes one combined Scrutiny Annual Report capturing the work of five scrutiny committees.
3. The Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 will be considered by Full Council later this year. It is currently being drafted and will be presented for consideration by all Chairs of Scrutiny, prior to the end of their term of office in May 2024.
4. In preparation for the final draft, each committee is requested to agree the pages that will be included for that committee. Draft pages are therefore attached at **Appendix A** for this committee's approval. The pages will set out committee's membership, purpose, and key achievements over the year.
5. Committee members are to note **Appendix A**, focuses on the key areas of work undertaken by this committee during 2023/24. However, other sections of the final Scrutiny Annual Report to Council will focus on the difference made to residents, visitors, staff, and businesses over the administration, highlighting how Scrutiny has influenced the way Council services are delivered; improve stakeholder understanding and interest in Scrutiny; explain how Scrutiny facilitates engagement and encourages public participation; and highlight the value of Member-led / stakeholder informed decision making.

6. If agreed by Council the report will be available for download bi-lingually from the Council's website, in standard or large print version and will also offer a translation in other minority languages if requested.

### **Way Forward**

7. During the meeting members will have an opportunity to consider:
  - the draft Environmental Scrutiny Committee pages, attached at **Appendix A**, and provide any suggested amendments required to the draft document prior to its final consideration.

### **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 proposed pages for the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24

**LEANNE WESTON**

**Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer**

**12 April 2024**