

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

## Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services to Place, People and Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committees

On 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Report prepared by:  
Fiona Abbott

Agenda  
Item No.

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### In depth Scrutiny projects – 2015 / 16 A Part 1 Agenda Item

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#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For each Scrutiny Committee to agree the in depth scrutiny project to be undertaken in the 2015 / 16 Municipal Year.
- 1.2 The report also attaches some information about the work carried out by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 2014 / 15 Municipal Year.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That each Scrutiny Committee select the topic it wishes to undertake for in-depth study in 2015/16.
- 2.2 To note the information attached at **Appendix 3**, the summary of work of the 3 Scrutiny Committees during 2014 / 2015.

#### 3. In depth scrutiny projects

- 3.1 Involvement with in-depth studies enables Members to 'get their teeth into' a particular topic and also to influence and shape proposals before they are implemented.
- 3.2 Each of the studies are led by a Member project team / programme working party and the appointments were agreed at Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 (refer to **Appendix 1**).
- 3.3 Members should always aim to select a topic which can identify real service improvements and results in benefits / outcomes. To assist the Committees in selected a topic for this Municipal Year, a list of previous topics undertaken for in depth study since 2008 is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.4 Some of the recent reviews have been on how plan to meet the growing demand for social rented housing and impact of welfare changes. There are numerous positive outcomes from scrutiny taking an in-depth look at an issue. An example of this is the project 'Developing strong partnership links to encourage investment in the town and the supply of employment opportunity in 2012 / 13. One of the

key recommendations was the development of a Southend Skills Strategy and this was agreed by the Council in November 2013<sup>1</sup>.

- 3.4 The following topics have been suggested to date for in depth study in 2015/16:
- (a) Place Scrutiny Committee – A127 Improvements and Route Management strategy.
  - (a) People Scrutiny Committee – Transition arrangements from children to adult services.
  - (b) Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee – Control of personal debt and the advantages of employment.
- 3.5 Supporting information on each of the suggested projects will be reported verbally at the relevant Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- 3.6 Work undertaken by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 2014 / 15 - attached at **Appendix 3** is a summary of the work undertaken by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 14/15 Municipal Year.

#### **4. Corporate Implications**

- 4.1 Contribution to Council's Vision and Critical Priorities – Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.
- 4.2 Financial Implications – there are costs associated with organising in depth projects relating to officer time but this will all be contained within existing resources.
- 4.3 Legal Implications – none.
- 4.4 People Implications – none.
- 4.5 Property Implications – none.
- 4.6 Consultation – as described in report.
- 4.7 Equalities Impact Assessment – none.
- 4.8 Risk Assessment – none.

#### **5. Background Papers**

None

#### **6. Appendices**

**Appendix 1 – membership of project teams / programme working parties**

**Appendix 2 – list of previous in depth topics**

**Appendix 3 – summary of work of the 3 Scrutiny Cttees 2014 / 2015**

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<sup>1</sup> Monitoring from previous projects happens in a number of ways e.g. a monitoring report is available on the website – see [scrutiny page](#)

## Membership of project teams (Programme Working Parties)

## PEOPLE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME WORKING PARTY

Party	Members	Total 8	Substitutes
CON	N J Folkard M W Davidson S Buckley	3	All
IND	C J Endersby B Ayling	2	All non Executive Councillors
LAB	K R Robinson	1	All non Executive Councillors
LD	M A Betson	1	All non Executive Councillors
SIG	L Davies	1	All non Executive Councillors

## PLACE SCRUTINY PROGRAMME WORKING PARTY

Party	Members	Total 8	Substitutes
CON	S J Habermel M F Evans T Cox	3	All
IND	M Assenheim D G Kenyon	2	All non Executive Councillors
LAB	J G S Ware-Lane	1	All non Executive Councillors
LD	C A Mulroney	1	All non Executive Councillors
SIG	T Callaghan	1	All non Executive Councillors

## POLICY &amp; RESOURCES SCRUTINY PROGRAMME WORKING PARTY

Party	Members	Total 8	Substitutes
CON	M A Flewitt C W Walker D A Garston	3	All
IND	B Ayling D G Kenyon	2	All non Executive Councillors
LAB	C J Nevin	1	All non Executive Councillors
LD	A Crystall	1	All non Executive Councillors
SIG	L Davies	1	All non Executive Councillors

### Scrutiny project list

The Council has undertaken a number of in depth scrutiny projects and since 2008 has looked at the following areas:

- How the Council assists and excites individuals and community groups to achieve healthier lifestyles – 2014/15 (People Scrutiny Committee)
- The Council's Community Leadership role in promoting safer communities – 2014/15 (Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee)
- Understanding erosion taking place on the Foreshore – 2014/15 (Place Scrutiny Committee)
- Southend primary schools' falling grammar school entry figures - 2013/14 (People Scrutiny Committee)
- Impact of welfare changes - 2013/14 (Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee)
- Promoting a positive image for the town - 2013/14 (Place Scrutiny Committee)
- Housing – how we plan to meet the growing demand for social rented housing in the current poor national economic climate – 2012 / 13 (Economic & Environmental Scrutiny Committee)
- To identify improvements so that looked after children are given the best chances in life and that they do not become NEET statistics (not in education, employment or training – 2012 / 13 (Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee)
- Developing strong partnership links to encourage investment in the town and the supply of employment opportunity – 2012 / 13 (Economic & Environmental Scrutiny Committee)
- Child poverty – 2011/12 (Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee)
- Volunteering in Cultural Services - 2011/12 (Community Services & Culture Scrutiny Committee)
- Youth anti social behaviour – perception & reality – 2011/12 (Economic & Environmental Scrutiny Committee)
- End of life care for adults – 2010/11 (Community Services Scrutiny Committee)
- Economic climate – 2009/10 (Economic & Environmental Scrutiny Committee)
- Young Carers – 2010/11 (Children & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee)
- Preparation for the 2011 Census – 2008/09 (Economic & Environmental Scrutiny Committee)
- Carers need Care too – 2008/09 (Community Services Scrutiny Committee)

For further information please go to [www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk) and then to the Council & Democracy pages.