Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Chief Executive

to

Place, People and Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committees

On 9th, 10th and 12th July 2018

Report prepared by: Fiona Abbott

In depth Scrutiny projects and summary of work
A Part 1 Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 For each Scrutiny Committee to agree the in depth scrutiny project to be undertaken in the 2018 / 19 Municipal Year.

1.2 The report also attaches some information about the work carried out by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 2017 / 18 Municipal Year.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Scrutiny Committees select the topic it wishes to undertake for in-depth study in 2018/19.

2.2 To note the information attached at **Appendix 3**, the summary of work of the 3 Scrutiny Committees during 2017 / 2018.

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 17th May 2018 (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. A list of previous topics undertaken for in depth study since 2010 is attached at **Appendix 2.**

3.4 Sometimes there have one in-depth study conducted by two Scrutiny Committees. The last time this happened was 2016/17 when there was a joint study by the Policy & Resources and Place Scrutiny Committees 'To investigate the case for additional enforcement resources for Southend'.

3.5 The **Southend 2050 programme** aims to develop a shared vision of the place that Southend could become - capturing how it could feel to live, work or visit here in the future. A programme of work was developed to engage the Borough's stakeholders, in a way that leaves a legacy of systematic on-going engagement.

Resetting the vision for the Borough and Council and bringing together all transformation activity, including channel shift, will help redefine the Council's relationship with residents, customers and other stakeholders.

3.6 It would be therefore advantageous for each in-depth study in 2018/19 to be linked to the development of the Southend 2050 vision.

3.7 Given the given the high profile of the town centre and its importance in terms of the sense of prosperity and well-being it gives to the Borough, it is suggested that the Place Scrutiny and Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committees undertake a joint study into various aspects of the Town Centre, in the context of the vision for Southend 2050. This study would cover retail in a changing world, housing, community safety, acquisition of properties etc. (*shaping here, living here*).

With regard to the process for carrying out the joint study it is recommended that:

(a) a joint member project team is established consisting of 8 members drawn from both Scrutiny Committees and chaired by the Chairman of the Place Scrutiny Committee; and

(b) the membership of the project team is agreed by Council at its meeting on 19th July 2018.

3.8 The People Scrutiny Committee could usefully undertake a study into childhood and young people (including students) in the context of the vision for Southend 2050 (*thriving here*)

3.9 When the topics have been selected and the project teams have begun the review, they might also like to invite some external people to join their project team (rather than just being witnesses).

3.10 It should be noted that the People Scrutiny Committee has already agreed to conclude the project on 'connecting communities to avoid isolation' and the Place Scrutiny Committee needs to conclude its project on 'Maximizing the use of technology'.

3.11 Work undertaken by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 2017/18 (attached at **Appendix 3)** is a summary of the work undertaken by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 17/18 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 Equality Analysis – 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 since 2010
Appendix 3 – summary of work of the 3 Scrutiny Committees 2017 / 2018