

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services
to

Place, People and Policy & Resources Scrutiny
Committees

On 14th, 15th and 16th July 2014

Report prepared by:
Fiona Abbott

Agenda
Item No.

In depth Scrutiny projects – 2014 / 15

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 2014 / 15 Municipal Year.
- 1.2 The report also attaches some information about the work carried out by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 2013 / 14 Municipal Year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That each Scrutiny Committee undertake the following projects during 2014/15:
 - (a) People Scrutiny Committee - 'The Council's Community Leadership role in promoting healthier communities and lifestyles'
 - (b) Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee - 'The Council's Community Leadership role in promoting safer communities'
 - (c) Place Scrutiny Committee – conclude current project 'Promoting a positive image for the town' and contribute to projects (a) and (b) above.
- 2.2 To note the information attached at **Appendix 3**, the summary of work of the 3 Scrutiny Committees during 2013 / 2014.

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 5th June 2014 (refer to **Appendix 1**).
- 3.3 Members should always aim to select a topic which can identify real service improvements and 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 It is suggested that the Scrutiny Committees undertake the following projects for in depth study in 2014/15:

- (a) People Scrutiny Committee - 'The Council's Community Leadership role in promoting healthier communities and lifestyles'
- (b) Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee - 'The Council's Community Leadership role in promoting safer communities'
- (c) Place Scrutiny Committee – conclude the current project 'Promoting a positive image for the town' and also contribute to the other projects (a) and (b) above.

The project will be concluded by this years project team - membership set out in **Appendix 1** - however the previous project team members are welcome to be involved.

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 project 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 2013 / 2014

Membership of project teams (Programme Working Parties)

People Scrutiny Programme Working Party

Party	Members	Total 8	Substitutes
CON	J Courtenay G Phillips N Folkard	3	M Butler L Salter L Day
IND	Endersby Morgan	2	ALL
LAB	J McMahon	1	ALL
LD	Betson	1	A Crystall
UKIP	J Moyies	1	ALL

Place Scrutiny Programme Working Party

Party	Members	Total 8	Substitutes
CON	D Jarvis M Flewitt T Byford	3	I Robertson A Jones D Garston
IND	B Ayling N Ward	2	ALL
LAB	M Royston	1	J Ware-Lane
LD	C Mulroney	1	P Wexham
UKIP	J Moyies	1	ALL

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Programme Working Party

Party	Members	Total 8	Substitutes
CON	S Habermel F Evans J Garston	3	A Moring J Courtenay M Flewitt
IND	M Stafford B Ayling	2	ALL
LAB	K Robinson	1	ALL
LD	Wexham	1	M Betson
UKIP	F Waterworth	1	ALL

Scrutiny project list

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

- 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 and then to the Council & Democracy pages.