

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Strategic Director
(Legal & Democratic Services)
to

Place, People and Policy & Resources Scrutiny
Committees

On 8th, 9th and 11th July 2019

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 2019 / 20 Municipal Year.
- 1.2 The report also attaches some information about the work carried out by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 2018 / 19 Municipal Year.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Scrutiny Committees select the topic it wishes to undertake for in-depth study in 2019/20.
- 2.2 To note the information attached at **Appendix 3**, the summary of work of the 3 Scrutiny Committees during 2018 / 2019.

3. In depth scrutiny projects

- 3.1 Involvement with in-depth studies enables Councillors 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 3rd June 2019 (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 2012 is attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.4 Sometimes there is one in-depth study conducted by two Scrutiny Committees. This has happened in 2016/17 when there was a joint study by the Policy & Resources and Place Scrutiny Committees investigating the case for the case for additional enforcement resources for Southend and also in 2018/19 when there was a joint study by the Policy & Resources and Place Scrutiny Committees looking at re-imagining the Town Centre in the context of the vision for Southend 2050.

- 3.5 The **Southend 2050 programme** continues apace and it would again make sense to align each in-depth study to the 2050 ambition and outcomes to ensure that momentum continues. The following topics are suggested for each Scrutiny Committee:
- (a) the People Scrutiny Committee could usefully undertake a project around inclusion and disability (themes - *safe & well; opportunity & prosperity*)
 - (b) the Place Scrutiny Committee could usefully undertake project around public transport (themes - *connected & smart*)
 - (c) the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee could usefully undertake a project around how the Council and Councillors communicate with local people and stakeholders (themes - *pride & joy*).
- 3.6 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).
- 3.7 Work undertaken by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 2018/19 (attached at **Appendix 3**) is a summary of the work undertaken by each of the Scrutiny Committees in the 18/19 Municipal Year.

4. Corporate Implications

- 4.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map - 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 and Diversity Implications – 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 2012
Appendix 3 – summary of work of the 3 Scrutiny Committees 2018 / 2019