

## **PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **Work Programme 2020/21 - Evaluation**

During the 2020/21 municipal year, the People Scrutiny Committee held **8** meetings and met on the following dates: 16 June 2021 (Special Meeting), 7 July 2020, 2 September 2020, 13 October 2020, 24 November 2020, 7 December 2020 (Special Meeting), 2 February 2021 and 16 March 2021. All meetings of the Committee were held remotely via the Microsoft Teams platform, in accordance with Part 2 of the Coronavirus Regulations 2020 and the Supplementary Procedure Rules adopted by the Council.

During the year, the Committee undertook the following scrutiny work:

#### **Call-In/References from Cabinet**

The Committee considered **5** reports that were called-in from the Cabinet or referred directly by the Cabinet for scrutiny. No items were called-in from the Forward Plan. During the year the draft General Fund Revenue and Capital Budget for 2021/22 to 2025/26 was referred directly to each of the scrutiny committees for review, as was the annual Comments, Complaints and Compliments report for 2019/20. The Council's COVID-19 response, associated recovery plans and the impact of the pandemic on its Medium-Term Financial Strategy for the period to 2024/25, were also referred directly to each of the scrutiny committees.

The outcomes of the informal consultation stage one of a potential amalgamation of Chalkwell Hall Infants School and Chalkwell Hall Junior School, were referred directly to the Committee by the Cabinet (Minute 607 refers).

The Committee **referred no items** up to the Council for consideration.

The Committee **referred no items** back to the Cabinet for reconsideration.

#### **Pre-Cabinet Items**

The Committee considered **no** pre-Cabinet items during the year.

#### **Scheduled Items (each meeting as appropriate)**

A total of **34** questions from members of the public were responded to by the relevant Cabinet Member, a large number of which related to the outcomes of the informal consultation on the potential amalgamation of Chalkwell Hall Infants School and Chalkwell Hall Junior School.

#### **In-Depth Scrutiny Project**

'The appropriate use of reablement for older people (65 and over) when discharged from hospital to maximise the number of people at home after period of 91 days ('Home First' approach).'

The project was agreed at the meeting of the Committee on 9 July 2019 (Minute 172 refers) and a project plan was agreed at the meeting on 8 October 2019 (Minute 398 refers). The completion of the in-depth scrutiny project was carried forward into the 2020/21 municipal year as a result of reduced officer capacity and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. No further topics were selected by the Scrutiny Committee for additional in-depth review during 2020/21.

The reports and recommendations arising from the completion of the in-depth scrutiny project were considered by the Committee at its meeting on 24 November 2020 and the recommendations arising from the project were agreed by the Cabinet on 14 January 2021.

#### **Presentations/Other Matters Considered**

- 13 October 2020 - Report on proposed changes to acute mental health beds in South Essex (Minute 439 refers).
- 16 March 2021 - Changes to Phlebotomy Provision - Moving Services into the Community (Minute 913 refers).

## **Chair's Update Report**

As a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/21, it was not possible for the Chair of the Committee and member representatives on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to continue to hold regular informal meetings with the Chief Executive of Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, to discuss the proposals of Mid and South Essex Hospitals Group with regard to the implementation of planned hospital reconfigurations. It is hoped that such meetings will be able to be resumed during 2021/22.