

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2020/21 - Evaluation

During the 2020/21 municipal year, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee held **9** meetings and met on the following dates: 11 June 2021 (Special Meeting), 9 July 2020, 22 July 2020 (Special Meeting), 3 September 2020, 15 October 2020, 26 November 2020, 4 February 2021 and 17 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 **17** 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.

An update on the work of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Council in 2018, to work collectively with other local authorities to progress the economic agenda for the region, was referred directly to the Committee by the Cabinet (Minute 182 refers).

The Committee **referred 4 items** 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 **6** questions from members of the public were responded to by the relevant Cabinet Member.

In-Depth Scrutiny Project

'How the Council and councillors communicate with local people and stakeholders and facilitate engagement and participation'.

The project was agreed at the meeting of the Committee on 11 July 2019 (Minute 201 refers) and a project plan was agreed at the meeting on 10 October 2019 (Minute 411 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 report and recommendations arising from the completion of the in-depth scrutiny project will be considered at the first cycle of meetings for 2021/22 and subsequently by the Cabinet.

Presentations/Other Matters Considered

None

