

# Southend-on-Sea City Council

Report of Interim Executive Director (Strategy, Change  
and Governance)

to

Cabinet

on

26 July 2022

Agenda  
Item No.

Report prepared by: S. Tautz (Principal Democratic Services  
Officer)

---

## In-Depth Scrutiny Project - 'Enabling Councillors to be Effective'

Relevant Scrutiny Committee(s): People Scrutiny Committee, Place Scrutiny  
Committee, Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee  
Cabinet Member: Councillor S George  
Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

---

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the final report of the In-Depth Scrutiny Project for 2021/22 – 'Enabling Councillors to be Effective.'

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project, detailed at Paragraph 12 of the attached report.
- 2.2 That the budget implications arising from the recommendations of the in-depth scrutiny project be considered as part of current and future years' budget processes prior to implementation.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 At the cycle of meetings in July 2021, the Place Scrutiny Committee (Minute 107), the People Scrutiny Committee (Minute 116) and the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee (Minute 134) each agreed that a single joint in-depth scrutiny project be undertaken on behalf of the three committees during the 2021/22 municipal year on the theme of 'Enabling Councillors to be Effective', as part of the respective scrutiny work programmes for the year. The project plan and work programme for the in-depth scrutiny project were agreed by the committees during the cycle of meetings in September 2021.
- 3.2 The project was led by a member Project Team for which appointments were agreed by the Council at its meeting on 15 July 2021. The Project Team comprised the following members: Councillors B Beggs, K Buck, T Cowdrey, K Evans, A Line, J Moyies, D Nelson, I Shead and A Thompson. Councillor J Moyies was appointed Chair of the Project Team at its meeting on 19 August 2021.

- 3.3 The Project Team was supported by relevant officers including S Meah-Sims (Interim Executive Director (Strategy, Change and Governance)), T Row (Principal Democratic Services Officer) and S Tautz (Principal Democratic Services Officer/Project Co-ordinator). Other officer support was provided in respect of specific elements of the in-depth scrutiny project:
- 3.4 Progress with regard to the joint in-depth scrutiny project was achieved throughout the 2021/22 municipal year, including the development of an action plan, a comprehensive work programme and the receipt of relevant presentations. Although the progress of the project was delayed slightly as a result of the unfortunate local events that occurred in October 2021, efforts were made to ensure that the timescale for the delivery of the project was maintained and that the project was completed by the end of the 2021/22 municipal year.
- 3.5 The draft final report and recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project were agreed by each of the scrutiny committees during July 2022. In considering the recommendations of the project that concerned the enhancement or development of digital systems, the scrutiny committees were advised that the corporate commitment of the Council to ensure that its services were fully inclusive would be maintained and that alternative means of contacting the authority would continue to be offered where digital systems might exclude residents and service users.
- 3.6 In accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10 (Part 4 (e) of the Constitution), the report and recommendations of the in-depth scrutiny project would normally be presented to the Cabinet by the chair of the relevant scrutiny committee. As the scrutiny project for 2021/22 was undertaken jointly on behalf of each the three committees, each scrutiny committee has agreed that the report and recommendations arising from the project should be presented to the Cabinet by Councillor J Moyies as Chair of the Project Team.

#### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 In accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10 (Part 4 (e) of the Constitution), the report of the in-depth scrutiny report is attached at Appendix 1 for approval by the Cabinet.
- 4.2 The recommendations from the review are set out in Section 12 of the report. Some of the recommendations arising from the review have budget implications that will require consideration as part of future years' budget processes prior to implementation.
- 4.3 The Cabinet is requested to endorse the recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project.

#### **5. Other Options**

- 5.1 To note the report but not progress any of the recommendations.

#### **6. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 6.1 Not applicable

## **7. Corporate Implications**

### 7.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

As described in the report of the joint in-depth scrutiny project

### 7.2 Financial Implications

A number of the recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project have financial implications that will require consideration as part of future years' budget processes prior to implementation. The financial implications of these recommendations will be identified as proposals for their implementation are developed.

### 7.3 Legal Implications

None

### 7.4 People Implications

None

### 7.5 Property Implications

None

### 7.6 Consultation

As described in the report

### 7.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

None

### 7.8 Risk Assessment

None

### 7.9 Value for Money

None

### 7.10 Community Safety Implications

None

### 7.11 Environmental Impact

None

## **8. Background Papers**

None

## 9. Appendices

Final report of the in-depth scrutiny project (Appendix 1)