POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY PROJECT 2022/23**

TOPIC: "DEVELOPING STRONG GOVERNANCE AT SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL: STRENGTHENING THE JOINT WORKING BETWEEN ALL COUNCILLORS AND OFFICERS

FRAMEWORK FOR SCRUTINY/SCOPE OF PROJECT:

(1) To ensure that the separate review being undertaken of the Council's Constitution by the General Purposes Committee, to which all members of the Council have a separate opportunity to contribute, is used to deliver effective communication between councillors and officers.

(2) Where relevant, to feed into the review being undertaken of the Constitution by the General Purposes Committee.

(3) To review current arrangements for communication between councillors and officers and to identify what better communication would look like, using 'live' examples, setting a positive tone and learning from strengths.

(4) To review current training and development opportunities and induction arrangements for new/existing councillors to ensure engagement with training and induction arrangements and better understand how councillors would like information to be presented, to improve the understanding of business needs and new ways of working across the Council.

METHOD: Through Project Team meetings, witness sessions and/or workshops.	**TARGET DATE:** April 2023

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillors: T Cowdrey (Chair), D Garston, A Line, R McMullan, D Nelson, M Sadza, I Shead, C Walker

OFFICER/PARTNER SUPPORT

S Meah-Sims (Interim Executive Director (Strategy, Change and Governance), S Tautz (Principal Democratic Services Officer).

Other officer support to be identified as appropriate or required for elements of the project.

SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

The evidence base will be:

(a) Councillor 'case studies', experiences and feedback.
(b) Specific examples of issues within the scope of the project where things have not gone well.
(c) Relevant data, profiles, trends, and patterns, where such information is held by the Council or can be obtained from published sources or benchmarking

arrangements.
(d) Performance information on key issues.
(e) Information/feedback from relevant officer teams (e.g., 'Councillor Queries')

POTENTIAL WITNESSES:

(a) All members of the Council, including non-aligned councillors.
(b) Relevant service managers and officer teams.
(c) Representatives of other local authorities.

The scrutiny process is structured to add value and is supportive of the challenges already set to be delivered, but has limited resources, which need to be focused on providing front-line services and the priority outcomes for the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To make appropriate recommendations to the Cabinet.