

POLICY & RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME EVALUATION - 2022/23

During the 2022/23 municipal year, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee held **8** meetings and met on the following dates: 7 July 2022, 1 September 2022, 13 October 2022, 1 December 2022, 2 February 2023 and 15 March 2023. Special meetings of the Committee were held on 15 November 2022 and 22 March 2023.

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

(a) Call-In/References from Cabinet

The Committee considered **29** reports that were called-in (13) from the Cabinet or referred directly (16) by the Cabinet for scrutiny. During the year, the Annual Report and Provisional Resources Outturn for 2021/22 against the Delivery of the Southend 2050 Outcomes and Priorities, was called in to each of the scrutiny committees. In addition, the Finance and Corporate Performance Report for Period 4 of 2022/23 was referred directly to each of the scrutiny committees by the Cabinet, as was the annual review of the Corporate Risk Register. The Committee considered the draft General Fund Revenue Budget for 2023/24 to 2027/28 and the Housing Revenue Account budget and rent setting for 2023/24 which had been referred directly (16) by the Cabinet for scrutiny.

Of the reports that were called-in from the Cabinet or referred directly by the Cabinet for scrutiny:

- The Committee referred **2** items back to the Cabinet for reconsideration during the year.
- The Committee referred **1** matter up to the Council for consideration in accordance with Procedure Rule 39 during the year.

(b) Forward Plan

The Committee considered **no** items called-in from the Cabinet forward plan during the year.

(c) Pre-Cabinet Scrutiny

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

The Council has agreed the introduction of pre-Cabinet scrutiny arrangements across the scrutiny function from the commencement of the 2023/24 municipal year.

(d) Scheduled Items

During the year, the following scheduled matters were considered at each meeting of the Committee (as appropriate):

- A total of **13** questions received from members of the public were responded to by the relevant Cabinet Members.
- The Committee received the draft minutes of meetings of the Joint Committee of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) at relevant meetings.
- In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2022/23 - A verbal update on the progress of the project was made to each meeting by the Chair of the Project Team.

In-Depth Scrutiny Project

An in-depth scrutiny project was undertaken on behalf of the Committee for 2022//23 on the theme of 'Developing Strong Governance: Strengthening Joint Working Between Councillors and Officers,' which was agreed at the meeting of the Committee on 7 July 2022 (Minute 118). A project plan and work programme for the in-depth scrutiny project were agreed at the meeting on 13 October 2022 (Minute 369). No additional topics were selected by the Committee for in-depth scrutiny activity during 2022/23.

The final report and recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project are to be considered by at the meeting of the Committee on 6 July 2023 and, subject to the agreement of the report and recommendations, will then subsequently be considered by the Cabinet.

Other Matters

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

- Consideration of the final report and recommendations arising from the Joint In-Depth Scrutiny Project for 2022/23 (7 July 2022 (Minute 117) and 1 September 2022 (Minute 264)).
- Consideration of the summary of work for 2021/22 and the proposed In-Depth Scrutiny Project for 2022/23 (7 July 2022 (Minute 118)).