

## **PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22 - EVALUATION**

During the 2021/22 municipal year, the People Scrutiny Committee held **7** meetings and met on the following dates: 6 July 2021, 1 September 2021, 5 October 2021, 30 November 2021, 8 February 2022 15 March 2022 and 20 April 2022 (Special Meeting). A special meeting scheduled to be held on 8 November 2021 was cancelled as a result of the unfortunate local events that occurred in Southend-on-Sea during October 2021.

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 2022/23 to 2026/27 was referred directly to each of the scrutiny committees by the Cabinet for review, as was the annual Comments, Complaints and Compliments report for 2020/21, the review of the Corporate Risk Register and the annual review and refresh of the Southend 2050 outcomes and roadmap milestones. An update on the action being taken by the Council in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to support local residents and businesses, was also referred directly to each of the scrutiny committees by the Cabinet.

At the request of the Audit Committee, the Committee undertook an in-depth examination and scrutiny of the current provision of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) home to school transport services by Vecteo and where service failures had occurred since the commencement of the contract with Vecteo (Minute 907).

The Committee referred **no** matters up to the Council for consideration in accordance with Procedure Rule 39 during the year.

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

### **Pre-Cabinet Items**

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

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

- A total of **17** questions received from members of the public were responded to by the relevant Cabinet Member, many which related to the Committee's examination and scrutiny of the current provision of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) home to school transport services by Vecteo, on 20 April 2022 (Special Meeting).
- Joint In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2021/22 - Progress Report (each meeting).

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

A joint in-depth scrutiny project was undertaken on behalf of the People Scrutiny Committee, the Place Scrutiny Committee and the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee for 2021//22 on the theme of 'Enabling Councillors to be Effective,' which was agreed at the meeting of the Committee on 6 July 2021 (Minute 116). A project plan and work programme for the in-depth scrutiny project were agreed at the meeting on 5 October 2021 (Minute 376). No additional topics were selected by the Committee for in-depth scrutiny activity during 2021/22.

The report and recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project were to be considered at the first cycle of meetings of the scrutiny committees for 2022/23 and, subject to their agreement, subsequently by the Cabinet.

### **Health Scrutiny**

- Community Inpatient Beds in Mid and South Essex (30 November 2021 (Minute 500))
- Community Children's Services - South-East Essex (8 February 2022 (Minute 675)).

As a result of the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2021/22, it was not possible for the Chair of the Committee and member representatives on the former Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to hold regular informal meetings with the Chief Executive of Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust. It is hoped that such meetings will be able to be resumed during 2022/23.

### **Other Matters**

- Outcome Letter Following SEND Area Revisit (6 July 2021 (Minute 115)).
- Independent SEND Peer Review (1 September 2021 (Minute 264), 5 October 2021 (Minute 374), 30 November 2021 (Minute 503), 15 March 2022 (Minute 794)).
- Home to School and Vulnerable Adult Transport Services (30 November 2021 (Minute 502), 20 April 2022 (Minute 907)).
- Children's Services Improvement Board (8 February 2022 (Minute 676)).
- Summary of Work 2020/21 and In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2021/22 (Minute 116).