

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	18 September 2023
Classification:	Part 1
Key Decision:	No
Title of Report:	In-Depth Scrutiny Projects 2022/23 - Developing Strong Governance: Strengthening Joint Working Between Councillors and Officers.
Report Author:	S Cox (Principal Democratic Services Officer)
Executive Director	Joe Chesterton (Executive Director – Finance & Resources)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the final report and recommendations of the In-Depth Scrutiny Project for 2022/23 – ‘Developing Strong Governance: Strengthening Joint Working Between Councillors and Officers’.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approve the recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project, detailed at paragraph 11 of the attached report.**

3. Background

- 3.1 At its meeting in July 2022, the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee agreed that an in-depth scrutiny project be undertaken during the 2022/23 municipal year on the theme of ‘Developing Strong Governance: Strengthening Joint Working Between Councillors and Officers’, as part of the scrutiny work programme for the year.

- 3.2 The Project Team for the In-Depth Scrutiny Project comprised the following members appointed by the Council on 19 May 2022:

Councillors T Cowdrey, D Garston, A Line, R McMullan, D Nelson, M Sadza, C Walker

Former Councillor: I Shead

- 3.3 Councillor T Cowdrey was appointed Chair of the Project Team at its initial project scoping meeting held on 28 September 2022.

- 3.4 The Project Team met on six occasions between September 2021 and March 2022. Efforts were made by the Project Team to ensure that the timescale for

the delivery of the project was maintained and that the project was completed within the 2022/23 municipal year.

- 3.4 The final report arising from the In-Depth Scrutiny Project is attached as Appendix 1 and the recommendations of the Project Team are set out in Section 11 of the report. These have been agreed by the Project Team.
- 3.5 The final report and recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project were agreed by the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 12 July 2023.
- 3.6 It is suggested that the report and recommendations arising from the project should be presented to the Cabinet by T Cowdrey as Chair of the Project Team that led the project.

4. In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2022/23 - Report and 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 11 of the report.
- 4.3 The Cabinet is requested to endorse the recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project.

5 Corporate Implications

Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

Becoming an excellent and high performing organisation.

Financial Implications

There are costs associated with organising in-depth projects relating to officer time, but this will all be contained within existing resources.

Legal Implications

None

People Implications

None.

Property Implications

None

Consultation

As described in report.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

None

Risk Assessment

None

6. Background Papers

None

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Final report of In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2022/23 - Developing Strong Governance: Strengthening Joint Working Between Councillors and Officers.