

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	18 September 2023
Classification:	Part 1
Key Decision:	No
Title of Report:	In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2022/23 - Providing First-Class Services for Families of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
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 - 'Providing First-Class Services for Families of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities'.

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 on 6 July 2022, the Committee agreed that an In-Depth Scrutiny Project be undertaken during the 2022/23 municipal year on the theme of 'Providing First-Class Services for Families of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities,' 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, A Dear, N Folkard, K Murphy, M O'Connor, L Salter, M Stafford and A Thompson.

- 3.3 Councillor T Cox was appointed to membership of the Project Team by the Council on 14 July 2022 to replace Councillor L Salter and Councillor B Hooper was appointed to membership of the Project Team by the Council on 20 October 2022, to replace Councillor A Thompson. Councillor Cox was appointed as Chair of the Project Team at its initial project scoping meeting held on 26 September 2022. At the request of Councillor Cox and with the agreement of the Project Team, Councillor Cowdrey subsequently assumed the role of the Chair of the Project Team from January 2023. The Project

Team was supported by relevant officers including M Marks (Executive Director (Children and Public Health)) 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 2022/23 municipal year, including the development of an action plan and a comprehensive work programme. 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 by the end of the 2022/23 municipal year.
- 3.5 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. A number of the recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project have budget implications that will require consideration as part of current and future years' budget processes prior to implementation.
- 3.6 The final report and recommendations arising from the in-depth scrutiny project were agreed by the People Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 11 July 2023.
- 3.7 The report and recommendations arising from the completion of the In-Depth Scrutiny Project will be presented to the Committee by Councillor 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.

4 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 - Providing First-Class Services for Families of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.