

# MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 JANUARY 2023

## PRESENT:

### Members of the Committee:

Councillors Eccleson (Chair), Edwards, Lawrence, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Mrs Parker and Ward

### Officers:

Mannie Ketley (Chief Executive), Aftab Razzaq (Chief Officer – Legal and Governance), David Burrows (Chief Officer – Regulation and Safety), Mike Connell (Chief Officer – Digital and Communications), Michelle Dickson (Chief Officer – Communities and Homes), Nicola Smith (Chief Officer – Growth and Investment) and Linn Ashmore (Democratic Services Officer)

## 22. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair.

## 23. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors Mahoney and Rabin.

## 24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Items 5,6,7 and 9 of Part 1 – Councillor Mrs O'Rourke - non-pecuniary interest as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors by virtue of having seconded the motions referred to in the reports.

## 25. COST OF LIVING

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 4) regarding a summary of the conclusions of the Scrutiny Committee Sub-Group appointed to consider work in progress in respect of the cost of living issues.

The Chair of the Sub-Group, Councillor Mrs O'Rourke, reported that the sub-group had worked well with officers to carry out a full review of the action plan, making several proposed additions, engaging key stakeholders to act as critical friends and review the website content and reviewing the detail in Service Level Agreements (SLAs). It was noted that all actions were either green or amber.

Councillor Mrs O'Rourke thanked members of the sub-group and officers involved for their work on the in-depth review.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report and additional actions identified and recommended for inclusion in the action plan be agreed.

## **26. MOTION FROM COUNCIL – IMPACT OF THE COST OF LIVING ON CHILDREN**

The Committee received a report marked to follow on the agenda (Part 1 – agenda item 5) regarding a motion referred to Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 11 summarising the current workstreams and development of area action plans.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the ongoing work outlined in the report and the recommended way forward, as detailed below, be supported:

- Ward Members are best placed to support work on the development of the area action plans, specific to their wards, and in partnership with others.
- The area action plans should be further developed, with an update report being provided to Cabinet in Quarter 1 of 2023/24.

## **27. MOTION FROM COUNCIL – BUSINESS HUBS**

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 6) regarding a motion referred to Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 11 on the topic of business hubs.

It was acknowledged that the motion dovetailed into the wider current work on the implementation of the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and during discussion the Committee considered whether to continue with the current overarching planned work or carry out a separate piece of work focussing on the business hubs element.

The Committee was informed that Members would receive an invitation to an event being held with the Chamber of Commerce for businesses investigating the various options available for business hubs.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report be noted, and no additional scrutiny was required.

## **28. MOTION FROM COUNCIL – GYPSY AND TRAVELLER PITCHES**

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 7) regarding a motion referred to Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 11 on the topic of gypsy and traveller pitches.

The Committee acknowledged the current work being carried out to refresh the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and towards the adoption of a Development Plan Document (DPD) as part of the Local Development Scheme, fulfilling the Council's statutory requirements in meeting the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report be noted, and no additional scrutiny was required.

## **29. DEVELOPING A BOROUGH WIDE LANDLORD FORUM**

The Committee received a report marked to follow on the agenda (Part 1 – agenda item 8) regarding a motion to Council on 23 November 2022 recommending a landlord forum and a free accreditation scheme for landlords.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) a task and finish group be established to carry out research on the reasons behind successful landlord forums that exist elsewhere; and
- (2) the learning and findings to be reported back to Scrutiny Committee in order to help inform the potential next steps to setting up a local landlord forum in Rugby and its terms of reference.

**30. MOTION FROM COUNCIL – SURVEY OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Committee received a report marked to follow on the agenda (Part 1 – agenda item 9) regarding a motion referred to Scrutiny Committee in accordance with Standing Order 11 detailing the engagement work being undertaken within the action plan developed from the Communications and Engagement Strategy.

**RESOLVED THAT –** the proposals outlined in the report and the recommended way forward, as detailed below, be agreed:

- Scrutiny takes significant reassurances that young people will be engaged with in the action plan developed from the Communications and Engagement Strategy 2023-2026, ensuring the Council are informed how young people's needs and aspirations are best addressed by the Council in their service delivery.
- The initial action plan developed from the Communications and Engagement Strategy 2023-2026 be reported back to Scrutiny Committee for their further reassurance.
- The actions within the action plan be reported to the Equality and Diversity Steering Group for their consideration on how the council can include young people in Rugby with this protected characteristic in its ongoing service planning and delivery.

**31. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report and a table listing future work programme topics, items due to be scheduled and outlining the current position of reviews (Part 1 – agenda item 10).

It was noted that Councillor Mrs Crane had originally been due to attend the meeting to discuss performance in her portfolio area and the item had been deferred to a future meeting.

The Committee was informed that a piece of work was being carried out by officers on the Corporate Strategy Delivery Plan which would include identifying pieces of work where scrutiny could add value and help inform that decision making and giving an opportunity for scrutiny to have input in future schemes and projects over coming months. A report containing the proposed workstreams would be brought to a future meeting for consideration and adoption.

**RESOLVED THAT –** the future work programme be updated as minuted above.

**CHAIR**