



## SCRUTINY COMMISSION

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To: Councillors Seaton, Needham (Vice-Chair), B. Gray, Harper-Davies, Lennie, Rattray (Chair) and N. Taylor (For attention)

All other members of the Council  
(For information)

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Scrutiny Commission to be held in Committee Room 1, at the Council Offices, Southfields, Loughborough on Tuesday, 2nd April 2024 at 6.00 pm for the following business.

Chief Executive

Southfields  
Loughborough

25th March 2024

### AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 5 - 15  
To approve the minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 4th March 2024.
3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

For information, disclosable pecuniary interests and registrable interests relate to entries that are included, or should be included, on a councillor's register of interests. Non-registrable interests relate to any other matters.

4. DECLARATIONS OF THE PARTY WHIP

5. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURES  
11.16

No questions were submitted.

6. PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY OF ANY SPECIFIC FINANCIAL  
MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED BY CABINET

There are no items of this nature on the Cabinet agenda for the Commission to consider.

7. CABINET ITEMS FOR PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

The following items have been identified for pre-decision scrutiny from the Cabinet agenda for 4th April 2024.

- |     |   |           |
|-----|---|-----------|
| (a) | Assets Review   | 16 - 121  |
|     | A Cabinet report of the Director of Commercial and Economic Development to set out the direction of travel regarding Council accommodation and seeks approval of a Capital budget to engage suppliers to develop and deliver a programme of works.  |           |
| (b) | Workforce Development Strategy  | 122 - 137 |
|     | A Cabinet report of the Head of Transformation, Strategy and Performance to approve the Borough Council's Workforce Development Strategy 2024 – 2028.   |           |
| (c) | Biodiversity Improvements - Changes to Mowing Arrangements  | 138 - 167 |
|     | A Cabinet report of the Head of Contracts: Leisure, Waste and Environment to consider introducing a three-year pilot scheme of mowing changes at sixteen locations for the purpose of improving biodiversity. The pilot scheme will reduce the mowing frequency from ten cuts per annum to two cuts per annum at sixteen locations to improve biodiversity. |           |
| (d) | Towards a Corporate Biodiversity Strategy   | 168 - 183 |
|     | A Cabinet report of the Head of Planning and Growth to bring the First Considerations Report to Cabinet for approval. The First Considerations Report is required under the Environment Act 2021 and will form the basis for a Corporate  |           |

Biodiversity Strategy.

8. CABINET RESPONSE TO PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY 184 - 186  
A report of the Cabinet setting out its responses to recommendations of the Committee on pre-decision scrutiny items.
9. SCRUTINY PANELS 187 - 192  
A report of the Head of Democracy to consider updates on the work of scrutiny panels.
10. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 193 - 197  
A report of the Head of Democracy enabling the Commission to review and agree the scrutiny work programme.
11. SCRUTINY COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 198 - 210  
A report of the Head of Democracy setting out the list of forthcoming Executive Key Decisions and the group's Work Programme for consideration, in order to identify items for future scrutiny.

For information, further meetings of the Group are scheduled as follows:

29th April 2024  
10th June 2024  
8th July 2024

## SCRUTINY QUESTIONS

What topics to choose?

- What difference will scrutiny make?
- Is this an area of concern – public/performance/risk register?
- Is this a corporate priority?
- Could scrutiny lead to improvements?
- What are the alternatives to pre-decision scrutiny?

Pre-decision scrutiny

- What is Cabinet being asked to agree?
- Why?
- How does this relate to the overall objective? Which is ...?
- What risks have been identified and how are they being addressed?
- What are the financial implications?
  
- What other options have been considered?
- Who has been consulted and what were the results?
- Will the decision Cabinet is being asked to take affect other policies, practices etc.?

Basic Questions

- Why are you/we doing this?
- Why are you/we doing it in this way?
- How do you/we know you are making a difference?
- How are priorities and targets set?
- How do you/we compare?
- What examples of good practice exist elsewhere?