

# SCRUTINY COMMISSION – 28TH JUNE 2021

## Report of the Head of Strategic Support

### Part A

#### ITEM 10 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME WORKSHOP

##### Purpose of Report

To outline suggestions made at the Scrutiny Work Programme Workshop held on 24th May 2021 regarding the Scrutiny Commission work programme, the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee work programme and scrutiny panels.

##### Actions Requested

1. That the Scrutiny Commission approves the outcomes of the Scrutiny Work Programme Workshop in relation to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee, as outlined in Annex A.
2. That the Scrutiny Commission approves the progression of the scrutiny panels as outlined in Annex B.
3. That the Scrutiny Commission consider maintaining a record of savings made directly as a result of scrutiny committee and panel work.
4. That the Scrutiny Commission consider the continuity of Budget Scrutiny Panel membership.
5. That the Annual Scrutiny Report be considered by the Scrutiny Commission after the first Thursday in May each year.
6. That the Scrutiny Commission considers adding the Bulky Waste Collection Charges Review to its own work programme.

##### Reasons

- 1&6. To ensure the most relevant and significant matters be scrutinised effectively.
2. To ensure the most relevant topics affecting the Borough be scrutinised in the most efficient way.
3. To consider measuring the efficiency of scrutiny within the council.
4. To ensure the knowledge and experience of Budget Scrutiny Panel members be retained for consistently effective scrutiny.
5. To ensure pre-election periods are avoided.

## Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The previous Scrutiny Committee structure required a review as the Chief Executive had made changes to directorates and the services that fall within them, meaning the previous structure operating pre-covid was no longer relevant.

The review was timely in light of the pandemic and the significant ongoing financial challenges facing the Council, which have resulted in an urgent need to identify budget savings and efficiencies wherever possible.

## Implementation Timetable

Changes made to the Council's scrutiny structure were approved at full Council at its meeting on 26th April 2021.

## Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

### *Financial Implications*

There are no financial implications associated with these proposals.

### *Risk Management*

There are no risks associated with these proposals.

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## Part B

### Background

At its meeting on 8th March 2021 (minute reference 134 2020/21) the Commission resolved the following;

*'3. That a workshop be scheduled following the Council meeting on 26th April 2021 to allow members of the Scrutiny Commission to develop and align their work programme to reflect the new scrutiny structure. This would then be reported back into the Scrutiny Commission for transparency.'*

All non-executive members of the Council were invited to participate in the workshop and were provided with scrutiny guidance documentation and the Council's Corporate Strategy in advance to facilitate the process. Discussion was focussed on the following topics;

- The remit of the Scrutiny Commission and the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee
- The current Scrutiny Commission Work Programme
- The three defunct directorate-based Scrutiny Committee work programmes
- The paused table of scrutiny panels
- Recommendations made by the Cabinet and the Budget Scrutiny Panel

### Outcomes

1. It was suggested that the following be added to the Finance and Performance Scrutiny Committee Work Programme;
  - a. All Capital Monitoring, including Outturn, as previously received by the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee
  - b. All Revenue Monitoring (General Fund and HRA) Outturn, as previously received by the Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee
  - c. All Performance Monitoring, as previously received by the three directorate-based Scrutiny Committees
  - d. The Community Safety Partnership review as previously received by the Neighbourhoods and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
  - e. The Decent Homes Contract Update as previously received by the Housing, Planning and Regeneration, and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee
  - f. The Climate Change Strategy Action Plan as previously received by the Housing, Planning and Regeneration, and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee
2. It was suggested that the following scrutiny panels progress, subject to further discussion of the Scrutiny Commission under item 11 of the agenda;

- a. The Budget Scrutiny Panel (formal) to continue annually
  - b. Waste Services and Waste Management, to be expanded to include Environment and Sustainability (formal)
  - c. Digitisation and Transformation of Services (formal)
  - d. Combatting Loneliness (informal)
  - e. Promoting Tourism in Charnwood (informal)
  - f. Crime, ASB and Youth Crime (this was proposed subject to discussions with officers regarding a review of ASB and crime)
3. It was suggested that the following recommendations of the Cabinet from their meeting on 11th February 2021 (minute reference 84 2020/21), be considered;
- a. That the Scrutiny Commission consider maintaining a record of savings made directly as a result of scrutiny work. It was suggested that this could be an annual item and that Heads of Service could be encouraged to maintain this record.
  - b. That the Scrutiny Commission consider the continuity of Budget Scrutiny Panel membership. It was suggested that maintaining the same membership on the panel would be beneficial as understanding the Council's finances was difficult and so members would become more knowledgeable and experienced in dealing with the matter.
4. It was suggested that the Annual Scrutiny Report be considered by the Scrutiny Commission after the first Thursday in May each year to avoid prelection periods (currently scheduled for April each year).
5. It was suggested that the Scrutiny Commission considers adding the Bulky Waste Collection Charges Review to its own work programme.

### Annexes

Annex A: Finance and Performance Scrutiny Work Programme

Annex B: Scrutiny Panels Table