

REPORT TO: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 1 SEPTEMBER 2020

TITLE: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2020/21

LEAD OFFICER: SIMON FREEMAN, HEAD OF FINANCE AND PROPERTY AND DEPUTY TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (01279) 446228

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: ADAM REES, GOVERNANCE SUPPORT OFFICER (01279) 446057

RECOMMENDED that the Committee approves:

- A** The draft work plan attached as Appendix A to the report
- B** The topic submission forms attached as Appendix B to the report.

BACKGROUND

1. The Scrutiny Committee approved the use of submission form for potential review topics at its meeting on 24 July. This was part of wider changes to the process for developing the Committee's work plan, and the Council's scrutiny processes more generally.
2. The Review of Policing in the Town, Review of Youth Club Provision, and Review of Adult Social Care in Harlow have all been added to the work plan in previous years. The Committee has not taken any substantive action with these reviews so far. It is suggested that these reviews are not considered as part of the work plan this year and that they can be considered as items for potential review in subsequent years if they are requested using the new submission form.
3. The Committee will note that the Review of Overview and Scrutiny has a separate report elsewhere on the agenda. Provided that report is approved, the review will have concluded.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

4. In line with the revised work plan setting process, the Senior Management Board (SMB) considered any forms submitted by the Committee in order to produce the draft work plan attached as Appendix A to the report.
5. The terms of reference included as part of the review of Domestic Abuse in Harlow During Covid-19 Lockdown already form part of the Community Impact Officer work stream for Covid-19 recovery. SMB have recommended that this

review is put on hold, pending completion of work within this work stream. The Committee can then decide if it would like to progress with a review.

6. Due to Officer capacity, SMB have recommended that the Review of Allotments is considered on a future work plan.
7. SMB have noted the high priority given to both the Review of Housing and Accommodation Requirements for Adults with a Moderate/Severe Learning Disability, and the Review of Delivery of Council House Building Programme. SMB are recommending that external consultants are procured to enable completion of these reviews. Officers are looking to contact consultants as soon as possible so these reviews can be timetabled into the work plan.
8. The Committee will also note the removal of the Review of Permitted Development from the work plan. This follows the Committee's recommendation to Cabinet that the Council seeks Article 4 Directions for Harlow's major employment sites. The Council has applied for these Article 4 Directions following consultations for each of the sites, and Officers now consider the review to have reached its conclusion.

IMPLICATIONS

Environment and Planning (Includes Sustainability)

None specific.

Author: Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment and Planning

Finance (Includes ICT, and Property and Facilities)

None specific.

Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive

Housing

None specific.

Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing

Community Wellbeing (Includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

None specific.

Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing

Governance (Includes HR)

None specific.

Author: Simon Hill, Head of Governance

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Scrutiny Committee Work Plan

Appendix B – Scrutiny Committee Review Topic Submission Forms

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

SMB – Senior Management Board