

MINUTES OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON

15 October 2024

7.00 - 9.12 pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Tony Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Matthew Saggars (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Tony Durcan
Councillor Michael Garnett
Councillor James Griggs (as substitute for Councillor Mark Ingall)
Councillor Dr. Emma Ghaffari
Councillor Kay Morrison
Councillor Russell Perrin

Also Present

Councillor Joel Charles
Councillor Dan Swords
Councillor Nicky Purse
Councillor Jake Shepherd
Paul Austin, Chief Inspector – Essex Police
Leanne Archer, Inspector – Essex Police

Officers

Christine Howard, Youth and Citizenship Manager
Adam Rees, Senior Governance Support Officer
Cara Stevens, Assistant Director, Housing Operations (People)

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mark Ingall and Stacy Seales. Councillor James Griggs was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Ingall.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Matthew Saggars declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 as a School Governor at SFG.

Councillor Mike Garnett declared a non-pecuniary interest in the same item as a member of the Essex Police and Crime Panel.

28. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2024 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

29. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

30. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None.

31. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

None.

32. **RESPONSES OF THE CABINET TO REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

None.

33. **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION WITH ESSEX POLICE AND DOMESTIC ABUSE UPDATE**

The Committee received presentations from Councillor Joel Charles, as Portfolio Holder for Public Protection, as well as Chief Inspector Paul Austin from Essex Police.

RESOLVED that:

- A** All officers and elected members complete Southend Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB) 'Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness' training as a mandatory requirement every 2 years.
- B** A full review, updating exercise and subsequent relaunch of the council's Domestic Violence and Abuse Policy for employees becompleted within a six-month period.
- C** In addition to recommendation B, the council will develop and publish a stand-alone Domestic Abuse Policy setting out how the council will respond when it is made aware of an incident, is approached by a member of the public, or obtains a disclosure from another part of the community that warrants further action, alongside supporting an investigation by the relevant policing or criminal justice body. This new policy will complement the overarching direction set out in the council's existing Community Safety Strategy, which will be updated once the Domestic Abuse Policy is finalised and formally adopted. The aim will be to have the new policy in place within a six-month period.

34. **HOMLESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING FRAMEWORK**

The Committee received a report on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Framework.

RESOLVED that the Committee acknowledged the consultation processes already undertaken and planned and provide comment on the initial draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping framework, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, ahead of public consultation.

35. **CLIMATE CHANGE TASK AND FINISH GROUP - UPDATE**

Councillor Jake Shepherd said that the consultation on the Climate Change Strategy had started.

It was noted that the next meeting of the group was Tuesday 5 November.

36. **PLAYHOUSE, ARTS AND CULTURAL QUARTER TASK AND FINISH GROUP - UPDATE**

It was noted that the next meeting was on Tuesday 29 October.

37. **WORK PLAN**

The Committee received a report summarising its work plan. It agreed to add a review of sports facilities and play pitches and would look at extending its work plan into 2025/26.

RESOLVED that the work plan be noted.

38. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

39. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE