

## Agenda No 6

### ***AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET***

<b>Report Title:</b>	Scrutiny Review by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny
<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 March 2024
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aftab Razzaq, Chief Officer – Legal and Governance
<b>Summary:</b>	This report sets out the scheduled Scrutiny Review to be undertaken by Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
<b>Risk Management Implications:</b>	There are no risk management/health and safety implications arising from this report.
<b>Environmental Implications:</b>	There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	There are no direct equality and diversity considerations arising from this report.

**Scrutiny Committee - 5 March 2024**

**Scrutiny Review by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny**

**Public Report of the Chief Officer – Legal and Governance**

**Recommendation**

- (1) Note the scheduled review by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.
- (2) Delegated authority be granted to the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance, and in consultation with the Chair of Scrutiny Committee, to formulate an action plan arising from the scrutiny review and this be recommended to Full Council.

**1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny function within local authorities was introduced via the Local Government Act 2000. It forms a key part of the Council and is at the very heart of strong governance and importantly ensures that the executive is being held to account.
- 1.2 The assessment of Scrutiny formed part of the LGA's Corporate Peer Challenge. The assessors were provided information relating to the changes undertaken at the Council which included the move to a single committee. There was also the clear aspiration of embedding a culture of strong scrutiny throughout the Council. This is in accordance with the Council's strategic objectives as set out within the Council's Corporate Strategy and specifically the priority outcome 'Organisation'.
- 1.3 The findings of the LGA Peer Challenge can be found at the following link;  
<https://www.rugby.gov.uk/pl/w/corporate-peer-challenge#:~:text=In%20October%202023%20Rugby%20Borough,and%20opportunities%20for%20further%20development>.
- 1.4 Following the conclusions of the LGA Peer Challenge an accompanying Action Plan was formulated by the Council's Leadership Team and approved by both Cabinet and Full Council. The relevant report and Action Plan can be found at the following links;  
<https://www.rugby.gov.uk/documents/20124/7078207/AGENDA+ITEM+5+Corporate+Peer+Challenge+Action+Plan.pdf/3d87ec45-c3c8-3f21-f02e-e1951506539b?version=2.0&t=1706806757466>  
<https://www.rugby.gov.uk/documents/20124/7078207/AGENDA+ITEM+5+Appendix+CPC+Action+Plan.pdf/84adaa1e-bb39-8609-7a60-ed7283eb6c12?version=1.0&t=1706806845438>

## **2. Scrutiny Review**

- 2.1 As set out within the above Action Plan the following was agreed in respect of scrutiny;

*'5.6 Seek support from external stakeholders such as the LGA and the CFGS to ensure the Council is undertaking effective scrutiny. This shall also include bi-annual survey of Councillors in respect of feedback on Scrutiny'*

- 2.1 The discussions with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) commenced in January with a clear directive for a scrutiny review to be undertaken.
- 2.2 The CfGS is a national body that support various organisations in achieving strong governance and scrutiny. Further information can be found at the following link;  
<https://www.cfgs.org.uk/about-centre-for-public-scrutiny/>
- 2.3 The review by the CfGS will involve Cabinet, Group Leaders, Members of the Scrutiny Committee and Task and Finish Groups and the Council's Leadership Team. Following the review a report will be finalised by the assessor and shared with the Council. This will be then reported to Members and will form the basis of an Action Plan to be approved at Full Council.
- 2.4 The proposed recommendation seeks approval for delegated authority to be granted to the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance to formulate the required Action Plan. This will ensure such Action Plan is approved by Members in readiness for the upcoming municipal year.

**Name of Meeting:** Scrutiny Committee  
**Date of Meeting:** 5 March 2024  
**Subject Matter:** Consultation Monitoring  
**Originating Department:** Legal and Governance

**DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY**       YES       NO

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<b>Doc No</b>	<b>Title of Document and Hyperlink</b>