

MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 SEPTEMBER 2024

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee:

Councillors Timms (Chair), S Edwards, Freeman, Hassell, Lawrence, New, Parker and Srivastava.

Officers:

Aftab Razzaq (Chief Officer – Legal and Governance), Jon Illingworth (Chief Officer – Finance and Performance), Claire Waleczek (Democratic and Support Services Manager), and Lucy Kirbyshire (Democratic Services Officer)

Also present:

Councillor Sandison (Chair of Access to Emergency Healthcare Provision Task and Finish Group)

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 March 2024 and 5 June 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7. REVIEW OF ACCESS TO EMERGENCY HEALTHCARE PROVISION

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 4) regarding the review report of the Access to Emergency Healthcare Provision Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Sandison, Chair of the Task and Finish Group, presented the report and thanked the Members, officers and the community for their involvement in the review.

Councillor New raised the issue of the lack of provision for young people in Rugby with mental health crisis and that this was not included within the scope of the Task and Finish Group. The Committee agreed that this issue be included as a recommendation within the report to Cabinet

RESOLVED THAT – IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET THAT the review report and the recommendations be approved, subject to the inclusion of an additional recommendation with regard to a potential review of mental health provision for young people in Rugby.

8. VERBAL UPDATE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN FROM THE REVIEW CARRIED OUT BY THE CENTRE FOR GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY

The Chief Officer for Legal and Governance gave a verbal update on the recommendations and the action plan resulting from the review by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, which had been circulated to all members of the Committee prior to the meeting.

The scrutiny workshop carried out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny was positively viewed, with positive attendance from the Cabinet members. The action plan was formulated from discussions with the purpose of embedding strong and valued scrutiny within the Council, through training and a scrutiny protocol.

RESOLVED THAT –

- (1) the recommendations of the CFGS scrutiny review be approved; and
- (2) a report be submitted to Council with a recommendation that delegated authority being given to the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance to amend the action plan as necessary.

9. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING – QUARTER 1 2024/25

The Chief Office for Finance and Performance presented the Finance and Performance Monitoring – Quarter 1 2024/25 report, which had been considered by Cabinet on 16 September 2024 and circulated as part of the agenda. The report set out the position of the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account, as well as looking at the forecasts and the reserves. The highlighted pressures within Finance and Performance and Operations and Traded Services were discussed, along with the reasons for the pressures.

RESOLVED THAT – the Committee receives finance training to better understand the Finance and Performance reports and to play a greater role in future budget setting processes.

10. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report and a table listing the current position with regard to its work programme (Part 1 – agenda item 7).

The Committee determined that the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme needed to be informed by the Forward Plan, in order to achieve the maximum benefit for scrutiny. The Chair and Vice-Chair would meet with Cabinet members to determine the future work required, if any, relating to the outstanding task and finish group work detailed in the scrutiny work programme and the allocation of any work required.. The Committee agreed that it needed to focus on larger strategic policy items and reframe the Task and Finish Groups.

RESOLVED THAT – the Chair and Vice-Chair discuss with Cabinet members outstanding task and finish groups within the scrutiny work programme and report back to the Committee.

11. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan was discussed alongside the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme at agenda item 7.

RESOLVED THAT – the Forward Plan be included as a standing item within the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for each meeting to allow the Committee to identify any items they wished to review.

CHAIR