

# **REPORT OF THE ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO FULL COUNCIL**

**19 JULY 2018**

## **SCRUTINY COMMITTEES – UPDATE**

### **Introduction**

At your Annual Council meeting on 16 May 2018, members agreed revisions to the Scrutiny Committee structure to provide three Committees namely:

Economy, Environment and Place

Finance, Assets and Performance

Health, Well Being and Partnerships.

I can now report that each Committee has met for the first time and have agreed their Terms of Reference (essentially a standard Terms for all) and have considered their Work Programme.

Progress by each Committee is briefly summarised as follows:

### **Health Well Being and Partnerships,**

- Has agreed a Work Programme for 2018/19
- Has received a report on the decision of Staffordshire County Council to invite each District/Borough represented on the County's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee to appoint a Substitute member in order to ensure that as far as practically possible a representative can be present at every meeting. Consequently as the appointment of the Borough's primary representative on the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee is an 'Outside Body' appointment by full Council (For 2018/19 – the Chair of the Health Well Being and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee) , this meeting is requested to appoint a Substitute representative,
- Has considered the benefits of involving representatives of young people in the Borough in their discussions and decision making. The Scrutiny Committee therefore agreed to seek Council. approval to the extension of the Committees membership to include two co-opted non-voting representatives of young people – the Students' Union at Keele University and student representatives at Newcastle College each to be invited to appoint one representative.

### **Finance, Assets and Performance**

- Has agreed its initial Work Programme for 2018/19 including proposals to hold Joint meetings with the Health, Well Being and Partnerships Scrutiny

Committee in Autumn 2018 and Spring 2019 to discuss matters of mutual interest.

- Has indicated a wish to review its Terms of Reference after 12 months of operation.

### **Economy, Environment and Place**

- Has invited individual members of the Committee to submit items for consideration for inclusion in the Work Programme
- Has scrutinised three front line service areas namely Grass Cutting, Tree Management and the Planning Service to both identify the causes of pressures on those services and to determine how those pressures can be addressed, including any support/assistance which the Scrutiny Committee itself might offer.

Future Council meetings will receive regular updates on the work of the Committees from their Chairs.

In addition to formal meetings, a scrutiny training event was staged on 5 July 2018. It is proposed to repeat the event on an evening in early September 2018. Details will be forwarded to members in due course.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

1. That the updates on the establishment of the three Scrutiny Committee be noted
2. That Council appoint a substitute member to serve on the Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee on those occasions when the Borough's primary representative is unable to attend (The appointment of a Substitute to be dealt with as part of appointments to Outside Bodies in future years)
3. That approval be given to an amendment to the Constitution and to the Terms of Reference for the Health, Well Being and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to allow the appointment of 2 co-opted, non-voting representatives of young people to serve on that Scrutiny Committee: such appointments to be invited from Keele University Students' Union and Newcastle College students' representatives and to be for a period of 1 year.