

COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting date: 23 June 2022

From: Chair of Scrutiny Management Board

SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 *This report provides Council with an update on the work of Scrutiny and any issues and developments that have occurred since the last update to Council in April.*
- 1.2 *The report also includes, as Appendix 1, the current Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23.*

2.0 ISSUES FOR THE COUNCIL

- 2.1 *Members are asked to:*
- 2.2 *Note the recent activity undertaken by Scrutiny set out in this report; and,*
- 2.3 *Note the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 attached as Appendix 1.*

3.0 BACKGROUND

Scrutiny Board Activity

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Management Board met on 13 June 2022 and considered progress and future plans in the transformation of library services in the county. Members discussed the restructure of the service's workforce, new ways of working and recruitment of new staff, how digital technology and intelligent automation is being used to support transformation and improvement of services, improvements to library buildings across the county, and the work the service is undertaking with their communities and with partner organisations. Work to support the design of future library services through local government reorganisation, and the challenges and opportunities were also discussed.
- 3.2 SMB Members have also received a demonstration of some elements of how the Council's customer service system and planned improvements.

- 3.3 The Adults Scrutiny Advisory Board has not met since the last meeting of Council. The next meeting is on 24 June and Board Members are due to consider a strategic overview of the domiciliary and residential care sector, adult social care and day services, as well as an update on the current position of plans for the future of adults services being developed through the local government reorganisation programme.
- 3.4 Members are also due to scrutinise a summary of the inspection and performance reports across the provider sector.
- 3.5 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Advisory Board met on 24 May 2022 and undertook pre-decision scrutiny on the draft Youth Justice Strategy in advance of its consideration by Cabinet in July.
- 3.6 Board Members also received an update from the Executive Director – People on the Council’s role in local government reorganisation preparations in relation to Children’s Services.
- 3.7 The Communities and Place Scrutiny Advisory Board met on 10 June 2022 and reviewed lessons learned in respect of how vulnerable communities are supported through major incidents, and the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 3.8 Board Members also scrutinised the implementation of the Highways Information Management System.
- 3.9 The Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee met on 18 May 2022 and considered a report regarding investigation into claims made in respect of urology services at the University Hospital Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust. Board Members asked for future updates on next steps.
- 3.10 Committee Members also reviewed improvements in in-patient mental health provision across South Cumbria, and received an update on preparations for the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards. Members also received an update on ambulance provision in Cumbria.
- 3.11 The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Scrutiny Board meets twice a year, so has not met since the last update to Council and is next scheduled to meet in September.

Scrutiny Task and Finish Activity

- 3.12 A Task and Finish Group has been established and has now started its work to review the current package of health and care reforms being implemented nationally and their implications in Cumbria. The Group is due to complete its review and report to the Council’s Cabinet and other decision-makers by the end of this year.

Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

- 3.13 The current Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. This work programme represents the final year of the Council’s Scrutiny activity and retains a focus on policy issues and service delivery which are important to local communities, supporting effective

Council service delivery through to the vesting day of Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness Councils.

- 3.14 In addition, Scrutiny Members are also undertaking review and evaluation work so that learning, experience and knowledge can be shared with the new Councils to ensure a smooth transition and so that they can build on this Council's effective approach to Scrutiny over the years.

Call-Ins

- 3.15 No call-ins have been received since the last update to Council.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Scrutiny Members continue to play key roles in policy development and scrutiny of service delivery and performance through a busy work programme, alongside preparation for local government reorganisation.

Councillor Bill Wearing
Chair of Scrutiny Management Board
June 2022

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

REPORT AUTHOR

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