

# **SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**Meeting date: 13 June 2022**

**From: Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Manager**

## **Scrutiny Management Board Briefing**

### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 This report provides Scrutiny Management Board Members with an update on issues and developments that have occurred since the last meeting of the Board in March 2022.
- 1.2 This report provides Board Members with the current Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 attached as Appendix 1, and the current Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 July 2022 – 31 August 2022, attached as Appendix 2.

### **2.0 Issues for Scrutiny**

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- 2.2 Note the activity set out in the report;
- 2.3 Consider the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 attached as Appendix 1;
- 2.4 Consider the Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 July 2022 – 31 August 2022.

### **3.0 Background**

#### *Scrutiny Work Programme*

- 3.1 The current Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 is attached as Appendix 1. This work programme sets out planned Scrutiny activity for the last year of Cumbria County Council's lifespan, in advance of local government reorganisation in the county.
- 3.2 The programme has been developed with the aim of ensuring a continued focus on critical service issues important to local communities and the Council's customers; whilst also preparing effectively for the closure of the Council and ensuring opportunities for Members' learning, experience and knowledge to be shared with the Members of the Shadow Authorities for Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness.

- 3.3 As part of the programme some review activity is underway which will inform the Council's final Scrutiny Report, which will also be shared with the Shadow Authorities.
- 3.4 This work is underway and through a series of discussions will collect the view of Scrutiny Members, Cabinet Members and Senior Officers on the enabling factors and barriers to good Scrutiny over the last few years of the Council's Scrutiny function.
- 3.5 The collation of views and information is being based around the four principles of good scrutiny as suggested by the Centre of Scrutiny and Governance. These are:
- Provide constructive "critical friend" challenge;
  - Amplify the voice and concerns of the public;
  - Drive improvement in public services; and,
  - Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role.
- 3.6 The findings of this work will be shared for consideration by SMB Members at the September meeting of the Board, and the final Scrutiny Report prepared in advance of the November meeting.
- 3.7 Following the establishment of the Shadow Authorities the work that Scrutiny Members carried out over the last two years in the Local Government Reform Task and Finish Group has been shared with the Shadow Authorities to inform their future work.
- 3.8 Members should also note that members of the Council's Policy and Scrutiny team are working with colleagues from the District Councils in the county to provide support to the two Shadow Authority Scrutiny Committees.
- 3.9 The Scrutiny Performance Working Group has not met since the last meeting of the Board. The next meeting is scheduled for later in June and will consider the new Council Plan Delivery Plan and the first quarterly report on the measures included within the new Plan.

#### *Scrutiny Task and Finish Activity*

- 3.10 The Health and Care Task and Finish Group focused on the implications of the current national health and care reforms has now begun its work and is due to report in the autumn.

#### *Call-ins*

- 3.11 There have been no Call-ins received since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board.

#### *Forward Plan of Key Decisions*

- 3.12 Members are asked to note the Forward Plan of Key Decisions for 1 July 2022 – 31 August 2022 attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

**Clare Killeen**  
**Strategic Policy and Scrutiny Manager**  
*1 June 2022*

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## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

Appendix 2 – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 July 2022 – 31 August 2022

## **Previous Relevant Council or Executive Decisions (including Local Committees)**

No previous relevant decisions.

## **Background Papers**

No background papers.

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