

Report to:

SCRUTINY LEADERSHIP BOARD

Relevant Officer:

Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Date of Meeting:

15 October 2020

SCRUTINY WORKPLANS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the workplans of the Board and Scrutiny Committees, the impact assessment of the Whole System Transfers of Care Scrutiny Review and the update provided on the Community Engagement Strategy.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Scrutiny Leadership Board's workplan adding or amending any items as required.

2.2 To note the workplans of the three scrutiny committees, identifying any comments on their contents that require further consideration.

2.3 To request and consider a verbal report from the Audit Committee Chairman regarding areas of work identified for scrutiny consideration.

2.4 To note the update on the Community Engagement Strategy and add it to the workplan of the Scrutiny Leadership Board for consideration in approximately 12 months by the representatives of the three Scrutiny Committees.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure the Board carries out its role in monitoring the work of the whole scrutiny function.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 None.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priorities are:

- The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool
- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Scrutiny Leadership Board Workplan

The revised workplan of the Scrutiny Leadership Board is attached at Appendix 5(a) for Members' consideration.

6.2 Committee workplans

Each Committee held a workplanning workshop in July 2020 in order to form the workplan of their Committee. The updated workplans are attached at Appendix 5(b) and consist of the identified agenda items, areas for strategy/policy development input and topics for scrutiny reviews. The Scrutiny Leadership Board is requested to examine the workplans and identified areas for cross-committee working and any gaps in the topics identified.

Each Chairman will be invited to provide an overview of their Committee's workplan and give an update on progress in regards to ongoing scrutiny reviews.

6.3 Audit Committee input

The Chairman of the Audit Committee is requested to provide a verbal update on any areas of concern identified by the Audit Committee requiring scrutiny attention.

6.4 Tree Strategy

Representatives of the Scrutiny Leadership Board met on 5 October 2020 to consider the draft Tree Strategy. Key comments included the need to further explore how the implementation of the strategy could be financed, a supporting communications plan for the strategy and a more in depth look at how schools could be involved in both educating and involving children and young people in planting trees but also to explore schools as potential sites for tree planting. A full report will be provided to the next meeting of the Leadership Board and comments will be forwarded to the relevant officer for incorporation into the final strategy.

6.5 Whole System Transfers of Care Impact Assessment

The Corporate Delivery Unit was asked to undertake a brief impact analysis of the recommendations of the Whole System Transfers of Care Scrutiny Review by the Adult Social

Care and Health Scrutiny Committee in order to demonstrate any impact the review had had on delays to transfers of care. The analysis is attached at Appendix 5(c) for consideration by the Board. It is hoped that future scrutiny reviews can also be assessed in a similar way, subject to capacity, in order to demonstrate the impact that scrutiny can have.

6.6 **Community Engagement Strategy Review Update**

Representatives of the three Scrutiny Committees met on 28 September 2020 to receive an update on the Community Engagement Strategy. They had previously met in March 2020 and come to the following conclusions following consideration of the draft Strategy:

- That the revised Policy/Strategy document be circulated by email to the members of the Panel for final comments.
- That any recommendations of the Channel Shift Scrutiny Review relating to community engagement be fed into the policy.
- That the use of social media to promote scrutiny and encourage public engagement be considered by the Scrutiny Leadership Board.
- That the implementation of the policy be reviewed by the Scrutiny Leadership Board 12 months after being rolled out.

Chloe Shore, Community Engagement and Partnership Manager attended the meeting to provide Members with an update on progress. She advised that there had been significant changes to how the Council engaged with residents due to the Covid pandemic and that there had been a significant move to digital engagement from face to face engagement as a result of the restrictions in place. It was noted that the move to digital engagement had been more positively received than had been expected, however, it was important to ensure that engagement remained inclusive of those unable to access the internet.

Members were advised that the outcomes and implications of the pandemic had indicated that the draft Strategy considered previously would be no longer fit for purpose and required revision. Due to the pandemic, officers had been re-deployed to lead on new initiatives such as Track and Trace and therefore the required work to the Strategy had been put on hold. Concern was raised that until the Strategy was in place and implemented (potentially a further two years) there would be residents unable to engage digitally and requested that measures be examined to provide support during the interim period.

It was agreed that a review panel meeting be established in approximately 12 months when a revised version of the draft Strategy was available for consideration by Members.

6.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 5(a): Scrutiny Leadership Board Workplan
- Appendix 5(b): Scrutiny Committee Workplans
- Appendix 5(c): Impact Assessment of Scrutiny Review

8.0 Financial considerations:

- 8.1 None specific to this report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

- 9.1 None specific to this report.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

- 10.1 None specific to this report.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

- 11.1 None specific to this report.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

- 12.1 None specific to this report.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

- 13.1 None specific to this report.

14.0 Background papers:

- 14.1 None.