



Purpose: For Noting

# Committee report

COMMITTEE	<b>CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
DATE	<b>7 MARCH 2023</b>
TITLE	<b>REVIEW OF THE SCRUTINY YEAR – 2022/23</b>
REPORT OF	<b>CHAIRMAN OF THE CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>

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## BACKGROUND

1. The annual review of the work of overview and scrutiny provides the opportunity of highlighting the issues dealt with by scrutiny over the past year.
2. This Committee together with the three Policy and Scrutiny Committees now have a workplan going up to 2025. These are reviewed at every meeting. When an item is identified for inclusion within a workplan a scoping document is produced containing the reasons why the item has been chosen, the lines of questioning and the outcomes being sought. The scoping document is circulated to all the committee for approval. This ensures that scrutiny is councillor owned and led and focusses upon the issues that are deemed to be of key interest.
3. Alongside the introduction of a scoping document for each workplan item each agenda item will have an agenda item cover that is published within the agenda pack, giving the background to each item as well as the focus for scrutiny and any potential outcomes. This is to ensure that even if no report is provided or required there is a clear understanding of the item.
4. Agenda planning meetings are held with the relevant cabinet members and senior officers in advance of each meeting aimed at ensuring that the relevant information sought by councillors can be provided and giving officers a clear hypothesis on what exactly scrutiny wishes to focus.
5. The chairmen and vice chairmen of all the scrutiny committees have quarterly meetings to discuss workplans, processes and sharing ideas. The chairmen of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee also have regular meetings to discuss workplan items of mutual interest.
6. The appointment of a successor, Melanie White, six months prior to the departure of the existing statutory scrutiny officer, Paul Thistlewood, has given the capacity to enable a review to be undertaken of existing processes. This has resulted in improvements being made to the approach to workplans, scoping documents, website information and progress towards more outcome focussed agendas.

## CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7. The Committee met on nine occasions and these were held two days before meetings of Cabinet.
8. Rather than the Committee looking at every item going to Cabinet, as it previously had done so, it uses the forward plan to identify any key item which it believes would benefit from discussion and where it can add value. A similar process to that for other workplan items has now been introduced where any item identified within the forward plan requires the Committee agreeing on the scope, key lines of questioning and outcomes sought.
9. The key issues that have been discussed by the Committee during 2022-23 include :-
  - Development of the council's website
  - Draft Island Planning Strategy
  - Processing of Freedom of Information requests
  - Impact of the cost-of-living crisis
  - Cancellation of Isle of Wight leg of the Tour of Britain Cycle Race
  - Delivery of the three key priorities within the Corporate Plan – Provision of Affordable Housing; Responding to Climate Change and Enhancing the Biosphere; Economic Recovery.

## POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

10. The Committee is responsible for undertaking health scrutiny in accordance with the statutory regulations. The Committee has continued to enjoy good working relationships with all health partners and this has not been impacted by the move to the Integrated Care Board and Partnership.
11. The key items that it has dealt with over the past year include :-
  - LGA Review of Public Health
  - Impact of the proposed elective surgery hub
  - Patient transport
  - Dentistry on the Island
  - Establishment of Integrated Care Partnership arrangements
  - Review of GP access by Healthwatch IW
  - Delivery of Maternity Services
  - Partnership working between the IWNHS Trust and other health trusts.
12. A series of informal briefing sessions continue to be held with health and social care partners. These have been effective in discussing key issues in greater depth and identifying any significant matter that requires debate at the formal meetings. During the past year there has been sessions looking at Public Health Data, children's mental health provision, IWNHS Trust estates strategy, dentistry and GP services in Newport.

## POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES, EDUCATION & SKILLS

13. The Committee continues to have a main focus on ensuring that children on the Island are safe, have good access to services and fulfil their full potential. Key items dealt with include :-
  - Role of the Police in safeguarding
  - Work of the Youth Offending Team

- Statutory reports on adoption and fostering arrangements, safeguarding and complaints.
- Planning for future school places
- School governor recruitment and retention
- Work undertaken by Children's Services in assisting with the resettlement of refugees on the Island

## POLICY & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR NEIGHBOURHOODS & REGENERATION

14. The remit of the Committee is very wide and with only four meetings a year requires careful thought as to what to include in its workplan. Key items that it has dealt with include :-
- Place and neighbourhood planning.
  - Annual report from Visit IW
  - Installation of electric vehicle charging points
  - Bus service improvement plan
  - Outcome from survey of users of Cowes Floating Bridge
  - LGA peer review of Planning Services
  - Traffic Regulation Order policy
  - Results of E-scooter trials on the Island
15. An informal meeting was also held to look in detail at data relating to road traffic collisions and aspects of road safety.

## CALL IN

16. There has been no call in's submitted during the year. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny will shortly be publishing updated guidance on call in arrangements and this will be an opportune time for the Committee to look at the approach within this Council and if necessary make any recommendations for changes to the current process contained within the Constitution.

## COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION

17. There has been no issues raised through the Councillor Call for Action Process requiring the attention of any of the Committees.

## ISSUES FOR 2023/24

18. The Committees will continue to monitor the delivery of the key activities as contained in the Corporate Plan. Given the pressures on the budget each committee will want an assurance that expenditure remains on track and any pressure areas are identified at an early stage so corrective actions can be initiated. It is hoped that the Committees can be utilised constructively and timely in the review and formulation of key policies so to assist the Cabinet in reaching the most effective decisions for the benefit of Island residents.

## OUTCOME

19. The Committee is invited to note the report and identify any matter that requires further action so to improve the delivery of the overview and scrutiny function.

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