

## CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PROGRESS ON ACTIONS AND OUTCOMES 2021/22

Date	Item	Actions	Comments
<b>8 June 2021</b>			
	<u>Workplan</u>	An informal meeting of the Committee would be arranged to discuss the approach and processes for identifying items for inclusion in the future workplan.	The informal meeting was held on 30 June 2021 with a scrutiny development session being held on 27 July 2021.
	<u>Comments on other items due to be considered by the Cabinet on 16 June 2021</u>	<p><u>National Bus Strategy</u> The Committee agreed to support the Cabinet in its adoption of the strategy and the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration be requested to a relevant item in its workplan in relation to this matter.</p> <p><u>Consideration of and decision on the report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman</u></p> <p>i. The Committee accepted that there was no choice other than to agree with the recommendations of the Ombudsman but the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children’s Services, Education and Skills be requested to include an item in its future workplan to look at lessons learnt from this case.</p> <p>ii. The Director of Children’s Services to supply the Deputy Leader with figures relating to the number of cases that have been submitted to the Ombudsman.</p>	<p>This matter was discussed by the Policy and Scrutiny Committee Neighbourhoods and Regeneration at its meeting on 8 July 2021.</p> <p>The Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children’s Services, Education and Skills will be considering a report on this matter at its meeting on 2 September 2021.</p> <p>This information has been supplied to the Deputy Leader.</p>
	<u>Members Question Time</u>	<p>Cllr Brodie asked a question in relation to the rise in legal cases being dealt with by the Council. This appeared to have risen from a position in 2017 when there were 60 cases to 1750 cases currently. The Chief Executive indicated that he would look at the matter and provide a written response.</p> <p>Cllr Lilley asked as a supplementary to Cllr Brodie’s question the number on outside solicitors engaged on dealing with legal cases on behalf of the Council and for this to be included in the Chief Executive’s response.</p>	This matter was further discussed at the meeting on 13 July 2021.

13 July 2021			
	<p><u>Quarter 4 2020-21 – Performance and Budget Report</u></p>	<p>The following issues were discussed :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Highway PFI – Strategic risk shown as amber and the impact of savings made in the contract.</li> <li>ii. Number of households in temporary accommodation – Concerns that this could rise as the result of national restrictions on evictions being eased.</li> <li>iii. Percentage of out of work benefits claimants per month – Noted that the Island rate was increasing whilst both regional and national figures were steady.</li> <li>iv. Digital transformation strategy – urgent need for the Council’s website to be improved together with ensuring that the public were kept updated on changes.</li> </ul>	<p>Issues within the quarterly performance report will be regularly monitored.</p>
	<p><u>Comments on other items due to be considered by the Cabinet on 15 July 2021</u></p>	<p><u>School term dates 2022-2023</u>  The Committee formally agreed that the Cabinet be recommended to undertake a further consultation due to concerns that parent’s preference was for an additional weeks holiday in October rather than the majority preference from the schools, via their headteacher’s, for an additional week at Christmas.</p> <p><u>Ryde Transport Interchange Project Delivery</u>  The Committee formally supported the recommendations in the report to Cabinet to enable the scheme to progress but there should be more effective engagement with all stakeholders including Ryde Town Council.</p> <p><u>Draft Island Planning Strategy Consultation</u>  The Committee formally supported the proposals regarding the consultation and a task and finish group be established by this committee, to include councillors from the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration, to formulate a submission as part of the consultation process and this be reported to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7 September 2021 for approval.</p>	<p>The cabinet approved the proposed calendar for term dates 2022/23 as in Appendix 3.</p> <p>The Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration considered this project at its meeting on 8 July 2021</p> <p>The Task and Finish Group will be meeting on 31 August 2021 with a view to reporting back to the committee at the 12 October 2021 meeting.</p>

		<p><u>Contribution to development of Southampton City of Culture Bid 2025</u></p> <p>The Committee welcomed the significant opportunity afforded by the Council's involvement and fully supported the proposed recommendation of Cabinet.</p>	<p>The Policy and Scrutiny Committee for neighbourhoods and Regeneration will be including a relevant item in its workplan to look at the Council's own heritage strategy.</p>
	<u>Forward Plan</u>	<p>The Committee was advised that the forward plan would be updated to include items relating to the Corporate Plan and the Climate Change Strategy. With regard to the questions asked at the 13 July 2021 meeting concerning the number of legal cases the response of the Strategic Manager of Legal Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer had been circulated to the Committee. The Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance, Transformational Change and Resources indicated actions that he was taking in respect of this matter. The Committee formally supported the actions of the Cabinet Member in seeking to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• optimise the use of the Council's Legal Services team,</li> <li>• correctly allocate external legal work for skills or capacity, and</li> <li>• maximise use of the Council's significant external discounts.</li> </ul>	<p>The Committee will keep this issue under review.</p>
	<u>Workplan 2021-22</u>	<p>The Chairman referred to the initial workplan session at which a number of suggested items were identified for possible inclusion in the Committee's workplan.</p> <p>The committee agreed to prioritise the items relating to a review of the Investment Strategy and social value in purchasing arrangements</p>	<p>Draft scoping documents will be submitted to the Committee.</p>