

## **Executive Scrutiny Committee**

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 28th September, 2021.

**Present:** Cllr Sylvia Walmsley (Chair), Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Stephen Richardson (Sub for Cllr Laura Tunney), Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Hugo Stratton (Cllr Jacky Bright), Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Barry Woodhouse,

**Officers:** Michael Henderson, Judy Trainer, Margaret Waggott, Gary Woods (MD)

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Laura Tunney,

### **1 Evacuation Procedure and Housekeeping**

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3 Minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **4 Executive Scrutiny Committee - Role and Terms of Reference**

Further to minute ESC 7/21, of the meeting held on 27 July 2021, the Committee received a report that set out its role and terms of reference, as detailed in the Council's Constitution, and considered the Committee's work programme, in this context.

Members discussed the report and:

- there was a request that a flowchart be produced, setting out the stages of a review and the process for submission of final reports to Cabinet.

- it was suggested that there was an error in the drafting of the Committee's Terms of Reference, relating to the vice chair's position. It was indicated that this would be raised with the Council's Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED that the report and discussion be noted and actioned as appropriate.

### **5 Scrutiny Update and Annual Report 2020/21**

The Committee received a report that provided a scrutiny update, from regional scrutiny networks, and presented the Annual Report 2020/21.

An infographic, summarising scrutiny and the reviews undertaken during 2020/21 was included in the Annual report.

The Annual Report included:

- details of initial actions and outcomes from reviews in 2020/21.
- evidence of the impact, from earlier reviews, completed before 2020/21

During consideration of the Annual Report, members raised a number of issues associated with previous review topics:-

- The National Review of Gambling and Harm, which had taken evidence from this Council's Scrutiny Review of Gambling, would be shared with members, when completed.
- There was a discussion about large, cross-ward boundary, traffic safety schemes, particularly those that would provide safe access to parks and open spaces. It was suggested that resourcing such schemes may need a different approach to the current Ward Transport Budget arrangements and may warrant further investigation by scrutiny. Officers agreed to raise the issue with the appropriate Director.

RESOLVED that:

1. the update be noted and Annual report 2020/21 be endorsed.
2. issues relating to large, cross boundary road safety schemes be raised with the appropriate Director.

## **6 Chairs' Updates**

Members were provided with updates from the Chairs of each Select Committee. Updates and discussion included:

- an overview of work that been undertaken in response to the CQC inspection report on the Rosedale Centre Care Home, which had resulted in its overall rating being reduced from 'good' to 'requires improvement'. It was noted that a Task and Finish Group had been established to respond to the recommendations made by the CQC, and an Action Plan had been created covering a number of key domains. The Group met fortnightly to review progress against the Action Plan.

It was queried what the full financial implications of the change in rating had been for the Council, including those caused by closure to admissions and any delays in assessments. It was agreed that this information would be provided in the next update.

In terms of the Child Poverty Review (Children and Young People Select Committee) members highlighted the planned withdrawal of the £20 uplift in Universal Credit, the increasing number of food banks and forecasted rise in

fuel costs and how these factors might impact on children. It was also suggested that the Committee should consider how Government monies, to support families, had been used and what impact they had made.

Discussion around the Crime and Disorder Select Committee referenced the Ward Councillor survey issued to all Council elected members, to ascertain their experiences of communications with Cleveland Police. It was hoped that a response would be received from each ward.

The Crime and Disorder review of Public Spaces Protection Orders would look at issues around aggressive begging.

In the People Select Committee's review of Disability Inclusive Borough there was discussion around the provision of dropped kerbs. It was suggested that this may benefit from a separate review or be considered as part of the current review of Disability Inclusive Borough.

The Place Select Committee's Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group had been signed off. Members highlighted the importance of keeping a watching brief on communication issues with Thirteen Housing Group.

RESOLVED that the update and discussion be noted and actioned as appropriate.

## **7 Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

The Forward Plan was noted.

## **8 Executive Scrutiny Work Programme and Chair's Update**

The Work Programme was noted.

It was noted that Cllr Norma Stephenson would be standing down from the Committee. The Chair thanked her for her contributions to the Committee's work.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.