

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 18th May, 2021.

Present: Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley (Chair) Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Niall Innes (Substitute for Cllr Lynn Hall), Cllr Eileen Johnson (Substitute for Cllr Jean O'Donnell), Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E, Cllr Marilyn Surtees.

Officers: Nigel Hart, Gary Woods, Rebecca Saunders-Thompson, Peter Bell (MD).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Luke Frost, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Jean O'Donnell and Cllr Laura Tunney.

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared.

2 **Minutes**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting which was held on 23 March 2021.

AGREED that the minutes be approved as a correct record.

3 **Place Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision (Executive Summary for information)**

The Chair of the Place Select Committee presented the Committee with the Executive Summary of the Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision.

The main topics discussed were as follows:

Perhaps in the future if funding becomes available the issue of green burials could be looked at.

The Chair of the Place Select Committee thanked all those that had worked on the review.

AGREED the report be noted.

4 **Crime and Disorder Select Committee - Scrutiny Review of Fraud Awareness (Personal) (Executive Summary for information)**

The Chair of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee presented the Committee with the Executive Summary of the Scrutiny Review of Fraud Awareness (Personal).

The main topics discussed were as follows:

This had been a well led review that needed a tight reign. The evidence gathering sessions had been hugely informative. During COVID there had been

a massive increase in fraud. There had been some good partnership working during the review with Cleveland Police and Trading Standards that had ended with an excellent report.

The Chair of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee thanked all those that had worked on the review.

AGREED the report be noted.

5 Chairs' Updates

Members considered the Select Committee Chairs' Updates.

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

The Chair of the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee, gave members a brief update highlighting the following:

The Committee had received a presentation from South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in relation to phase 2 of the review (discharge to an individual's own home) in March 2021. Evidence-gathering for phase 2 concluded in April 2021 with a presentation from North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust.

A progress update on the agreed Action Plan in relation to the previously-completed phase 1 (discharge to care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic) was considered in April 2021

Children and Young People Select Committee

The Chair of the Children and Young People Select Committee, gave members a brief update highlighting the following:

The Committee had approved a scope and project plan for the Care Leavers EET review.

Although outcomes for young people in Stockton were in line with national averages, the review would examine whether the Council was doing enough and what more needed to be done to further improve performance and outcomes for young people.

April's Committee meeting focussed on opportunities to assist young people into employment, education, or training. Evidence was received from 1625 Independent People, a voluntary sector organisation, on their 'Reboot West' programme. Evidence was also received from North Yorkshire County Council on the role of Opportunity Brokers. SBC officers also presented on the EET clinic and data on the current NEET cohort.

Members discussed the ongoing problems regarding the cost of school uniform provision currently being monitored by the committee.

Crime and Disorder Select Committee

The Chair of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee, gave members a brief update highlighting the following:

The Committee considered a summary of the evidence received for the Fraud Awareness (Personal) review at an informal session in March 2021 and then formulated several draft recommendations.

Following the end-of-review tri-partite meeting, a draft final report was agreed by the Committee in April 2021.

People Select Committee

The Chair of the People Select Committee, gave members a brief update highlighting the following:

Regarding the Scrutiny Review of Local Council Tax Support Scheme (Working Age Adults) a report was presented to Cabinet, and approved, in December 2020.

The Committee will be pausing work on the review until more is known about the affordability of the current scheme and any alternative proposals.

Members discussed the Carbon Monoxide Awareness Review and praised the subsequent reports in the press and actions proposed by Housing providers; they felt however that more needed to be done to promote the dangers from wood burning stoves and other sources of carbon monoxide.

Place Select Committee

The Chair of the Place Select Committee, gave members a brief update highlighting the following:

With regard the Scrutiny Review of Burial Provision the draft final report was approved at the Committee meeting in April 2021.

Regarding the Scrutiny Review of Asset Management the key lines of enquiry had been discussed and agreed by the Committee

AGREED that the reports be noted.

6 Statutory Forward Plan

The Forward Plan was noted.

7 Executive Scrutiny Work Programme and Chair's Update

The Chair reported that it had been agreed that at the beginning of any new scrutiny review the person who had submitted that particular topic for consideration would be invited to a meeting with the Chair & Vice Chair to

explain the rationale of the item and any particular items they felt needed to be considered. This could then be fed into the review for consideration and the proposer could attend committee meetings as a member of the public if so desired.

The Work Programme was noted.