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Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Scrutiny Management Board

Tuesday 3 September 2024

6.00 pm

Council Chamber, Third Floor, Southwater One, Telford, TF3 4JG

Democratic Services: Paige Starkey 01952 380110

Media Enquiries: Corporate Communications 01952 382406

Committee Members: Councillors D R W White (Chair), M Boylan (Vice-Chair), E Davies, T L B Janke, J Jones, G C W Latham-Reynolds and G Thomas

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1.0	Apologies for Absence	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
3.0	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	3 - 6
	To confirm the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 June 2023.	
4.0	Biennial Scrutiny Report 2022 - 2024	To Follow
	To review and consider the Biennial Scrutiny Report for 2022 – 2024.	
5.0	Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24 - 2024/25	7 - 14
	To review the updated Scrutiny work programme for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.	
6.0	Review of Scrutiny Arrangements	Verbal Report
	To consider an independent review of the current scrutiny arrangements following referral from a meeting of Full Council on 29 February 2024.	

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SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Management Board held on Tuesday 6 June 2023 at 6.00 pm in Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

Present: Councillors D R W White (Chair), M Boylan, E Davies, J Jones, G Thomas and C R Turley.

In Attendance: R Phillips (Service Delivery Manager: Legal & Democracy), A Plummer (Democracy Manager), K Robinson (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)), S Worthington (Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)) and S Yarnall (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)).

Apologies: Councillors G C W Latham-Reynolds and T L B Janke

SMB1 Declarations of Interest

None.

SMB2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

SMB3 Election of Chair

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor D R W White be the Chair of Scrutiny Management Board for the 2023/24 municipal year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor D R W White be elected as Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board for the 2023/24 municipal year.

SMB4 Election of Vice-Chair

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor M Boylan be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board for the 2023/24 municipal year.

RESOLVED – that Councillor M Boylan be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board for the 2023/24 municipal year.

SMB5 Annual Scrutiny Report 2022/23

The Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny) presented the draft Annual Scrutiny Report for 2022/23 to the Board. Members of the Board were asked to consider the draft report and send comments to the Scrutiny Team.

Members commented that the report clearly set out the work of scrutiny in the previous year and new Members felt that it was a particularly useful for newly elected Councillors.

The Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny) advised that the Annual Report would be presented to the Scrutiny Assembly in September, before being presented to Full Council in November.

Members noted the report.

SMB6 2023/24 and 2024/25 Scrutiny Work Programme

The Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny) presented the draft Scrutiny Work Programme for the next two municipal years. A two-year work programme had been proposed to allow for in-depth work to be completed over multiple years. The work programme included various constitution items, such as the budget, and new and carried over suggestions following consultation with officers, Councillors, partner agencies and the public.

Members raised an additional item for the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, in relation to finances for schools, particularly relating to children with Special Education Needs or Disabilities (SEND). Members discussed that schools reported struggling to fund additional support for these children. A Member suggested that the Committee could focus on the transition from year six to seven and the impact this may have on funding.

RESOLVED- that the suggestions set out in the report be referred to each of the relevant Scrutiny Committees to prioritise their own work programmes, having regard to the over-arching priorities.

SMB7 Review of Co-Optees

The Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny) advised that non-statutory co-opted scrutiny members were appointed on a four-year term, co-terminus with the election cycle. The last term had ended in May.

All co-opted members had been contacted to thank them for their contribution towards scrutiny over the term and to enquire if they would be interested in continuing their role.

Two co-optees, Mel Ward and Lyn Fowler, both members of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee, had decided not to return as they were no longer in the roles which had appointed them. Members wished to express their thanks to Mel and Lyn for their contribution.

The available co-optee positions would be advertised and the Scrutiny Chairs, in conjunction with the Scrutiny Team, would consider all applications and appoint as required.

RESOLVED – that authority be delegated to Scrutiny Chairs, in collaboration with the Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny) and the Democracy Manager, to appoint co-opted members to individual committees as required.

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm

Chairman:

Date: Date Not Specified

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Business & Finance				
Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Suggested by	Directorate	Comments
Commercial Contract Update	Receive an annual update on the Council's commercial contracts.	Standing Item	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Committee Agenda Item Date to be determined
Corporate Grants	Consider the Council's corporate grants, does every pound the Council invests go to the front line.	Carried forward from previous year	Finance, IDT & People	Task and Finish Group Date to be determined
Financial Monitoring	Receive a report on the Council's Financial Monitoring position for 2024/25.	NEW – SMT	Finance, IDT & People	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for March 2025
Housing Investment Programme - Annual Update (Nuplace)	Review and consider proposals for the Housing Investment Programme, including key achievements over the last year and the progress of the delivery of the programme.	Standing Item	Prosperity & Investment	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for March 2025

Telford Land Deal	Receive regular updates in relation to the Telford Land Deal.	Standing Item	Prosperity & Investment	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for November 2024
Medium Term Financial Strategy (Budget)	Consultation on draft budget & policy framework proposals published by the Leader and any alternative proposals developed by opposition groups.	Constitutional Function	Finance, People & IDT	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for January 2025
Pride in Your High Street	Reviewing post-Covid recovery and the impact of High Street improvement works and the Pride in Our High Street scheme.	Carried forward from previous year	Prosperity & Investment	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for May 2025

Children & Young People				
Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Suggested by	Directorate	Comments
Annual Safeguarding Partnership Report	Review the Annual Safeguarding Partnership Report.	Constitutional Function	Policy & Governance Safeguarding	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for September 2024
Education Attainment and Outcomes	Annual review of education attainment and outcomes.	Constitutional Function	Education & Skills	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for November 2024
School Admissions and Placements	Review the Council's process for allocating school places across Telford and Wrekin.	NEW – Committee	Education & Skills	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for March 2025
SEND	Receive an update on the Council's provision for SEND including identification, placements and funding.	NEW – Committee	Education & Skills	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for January 2025

School Attendance	Receive an update on School attendance and absence figures for the previous academic year.	NEW – SMT	Education & Skills	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for May 2025
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Communities				
Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Suggested by	Directorate	Comments
Affordable Warmth	Receive an update on the impact of the Council's Affordable Warmth Strategy.	NEW – SMT	Housing, Customer Services & Commercial	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for March 2025
Customer Service Strategy Refresh	Review the current Customer Service Strategy and look at how it could be improved/refreshed.	Committee	Housing, Customer Services & Commercial	Task and Finish Group Suggested for November 2024
Domestic Abuse Grant	Review the Council's duty and funding of schemes targeting domestic abuse.	Committee	Public Health	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for February 2025
Fly Tipping	Assess the fly tipping situation in the Borough, including measures taken to combat the issue, public feedback, and reporting.	Carried forward from previous year	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Task and Finish Group Suggested for September 2024

Road Safety	Receive an update on road safety activity across the Borough.	Carried forward from previous year	Neighbourhood & Enforcement Services	Committee Agenda Item Date to be determined
Social Value in Contracts	Review of the Social Value in Contracts scheme and consideration of the development of a social value impact fund and if this would be beneficial for the community.	Carried forward from previous year	Policy & Governance	Task and Finish Group Date to be determined

Environment				
Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Suggested by	Directorate	Comments
Biodiversity Duty	Receive an update on the Council's Biodiversity Duty.	NEW – Committee	Prosperity & Investment	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for October 2024
Climate Change Adaptation	Review the Council's plan for Climate Change Adaptation.	Carried forward from previous year	Housing, Customer Services & Commercial	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for December 2024
Climate Change and Plastic Free Telford & Wrekin	Annual Update on the Council's Climate Change agenda.	Standing Item	Housing, Customer Services & Commercial	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for April 2025
Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Receive an update on the Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy.	NEW – Committee	Prosperity & Investment	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for February 2025
Shropshire Good Food – 12 month review	Update on the Shropshire Good Food Project.	Standing Item	Housing, Customer Services & Commercial	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for April 2025

Health & Adult Social Care				
Issue / Topic	Brief Description	Suggested by	Directorate	Comments
Hospital Discharge and Intermediate Care	Receive an update on hospital discharge rates and intermediate care provision.	NEW – Committee	Adult Social Care	Committee Agenda Item Suggested for October 2024
Mental Health	Review into provisions for mental health support for adults, children and young people across the Borough.	NEW – Committee	Public Health External	Task and Finish Group Suggested for December 2024
Primary Care Access	Review into how patients access primary care across the Borough.	Continuation of previous years' work	Public Health External	Task and Finish Group Ongoing – continuation from interim report July 2023