

Executive Scrutiny Board Performance Plan 2020-21

Purpose

- 1.1 The Executive Scrutiny Board has ownership for monitoring corporate performance. To support the delivery of improved outcomes, the Board approves an annual performance plan of items for consideration.
- 1.2 Further to discussions with the Chair, it has been recommended that the Executive Scrutiny Board defer agreement of a Performance Plan for 2020-21 until the Council Recovery Plan has been agreed by Council Cabinet.

This is to ensure that topics for Overview and Scrutiny reflect revised corporate priorities, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

- 1.3 Discussions were held between the Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Board and the Chairs of Scrutiny Review Boards at a meeting on 19 August 2020.

A broad consensus existed as to the public interest in scrutinising the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the need to adopt a structured approach that did not place unreasonable demands on frontline resources, in what remains a rapidly changing situation.

- 1.4 This report intends to formalise those discussions and to establish a framework within which the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic can be appropriately scrutinised.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To note that an Executive Scrutiny Performance Plan for 2020-21 will be determined at a later date, once the Council's Recovery Plan has been formally agreed.
- 2.2 To request that Scrutiny Review Boards:
 - a) consider the Council's response to Covid-19, in relation to their respective terms of reference, for incorporation within their individual work programmes.
 - b) provide recommendations to the Executive Scrutiny Board by the conclusion of the 2020-21 municipal year, for consolidation and submission to Council Cabinet or other committees of the Council as appropriate.

Reasons

- 3.1 The annual Executive Scrutiny Performance Plan is intended to provide robust performance monitoring and challenge, enabling the Board to recommend remedial or further investigative action, to support improvements in priority areas.

Due to the unprecedented circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council is reviewing its priorities for delivery, and these will be reflected in a Recovery Plan. The Chair has agreed that this will form the basis of the Executive Scrutiny Performance Plan for the forthcoming municipal year.

- 3.2 Councillors have expressed an interest in scrutinising the Council's response to the pandemic in several forums, including via individual Scrutiny Review Boards and other committees. Given the impact of Covid-19 across all areas of the Council, it is recommended that scrutiny is linked to the Recovery Plan and co-ordinated via the Executive Scrutiny Board.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Following publication of the Recovery Plan, an Executive Scrutiny Performance Plan for 2020-21 will be presented to the Board for consideration.
- 4.2 In addition to the Performance Plan, the Executive Scrutiny Board can request performance surgeries to explore topics in more detail or refer matters to Scrutiny Review Boards for further investigation.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that Scrutiny Chairs will present individual topics for review at the next meetings of their Boards, for incorporation within their respective work programmes.

Topics currently under consideration are as follows:

- Corporate Services – the impact and associated risks of Covid-19 on the Council's finances
- Adults and Health – review of Covid-19 in Care Homes
- Children and Young People – early intervention and youth outreach support.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 The Performance Plan is developed in consultation with the Chair of the Executive Scrutiny Board, the Policy and Insight Team and Democratic Services at the start of each municipal year. The Board has an opportunity to amend the Performance Plan at each meeting.
- 5.2 A meeting was held with Chairs on 19 August 2020 to discuss how Scrutiny Review Boards can effectively examine the Council's Covid-19 response.

It was recommended at that meeting that the Executive Scrutiny Board adopt a co-ordinating role and that any topic reviews arising from Scrutiny Review Boards are consolidated into a single set of recommendations from Executive Scrutiny to Council Cabinet or other committees of the Council as appropriate.

Other options

6.1 None.

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 Failure to adopt a structured approach to scrutiny of this area risks duplication and drawing the Council's resources away from the on-going response to the pandemic.

Legal implications

8.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other significant implications

9.1 Performance monitoring, reporting and scrutiny allows the Council to support delivery of its Council Plan 2019-23 and manage risk by identifying potential issues at the earliest opportunity and put measures in place to mitigate these and improve performance.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	N/A	
Finance	N/A	
Service Director(s)	Heather Greenan, Director of Policy Insight & Communications	27/08/2020
Report sponsor		
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	None