

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

Meeting date: 22 May 2020

**From: Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and
Community Services**

Scrutiny Management Board Briefing

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report provides Scrutiny Management Board with an update on issues and developments that have occurred since the meeting of the Board on 3 March 2020.

2.0 Issues for Scrutiny

2.1 Members are asked to:

- Note the range of activity set out in this report
- Agree that the Scrutiny work programme is reviewed, with the involvement of relevant Scrutiny Advisory Boards
- Note the Work Programme presented in Appendix 1
- Consider the Forward Plan of Key Decisions set out in Appendix 2

3.0 Background

3.1 At the meeting of the Board on 3 March 2020, Members considered progress to date and future plans in relation to the Council's Customer Programme and the draft Scrutiny Annual Report.

3.2 Later in March, all Scrutiny meetings were stood down following the national lockdown in response to the Coronavirus pandemic. It was subsequently decided that the Scrutiny Management Board should be stood up in May 2020.

3.3 As the Council's Annual General Meeting was postponed in April, the Scrutiny Annual Report was circulated to all Members.

Review of Scrutiny Work Programme and Development Plan

- 3.4 It is proposed that, in light of the Coronavirus pandemic and its impact, the Scrutiny Development Plan and Work Programme for 2020/21 are reviewed. This will ensure that effective scrutiny is carried out on issues prioritised by Members, taking into account the effects of the pandemic on Cumbria and on the way the Council operates, and the capacity of Members, staff and partners as response and recovery activity continues over the coming weeks and months.
- 3.5 Following engagement with Members, proposals will be brought to the next meeting of Scrutiny Management Board for consideration.
- 3.6 The Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21 as it stood in March 2020 is attached as Appendix 1 for information. Subject to further engagement with Members on review activity, it is proposed that the agenda for the next meeting of the Board includes an update on the implementation of Task and Finish Group recommendations to Cabinet, and specifically, an update on workforce and absence management.

Forward Plan of Key Decisions

- 3.7 Members are asked to note the Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 June 2020 – 31 July 2020 provided as Appendix 2.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The Coronavirus pandemic is having significant impacts on residents, businesses and organisations in Cumbria, and is likely to continue to do so in the long-term. The role of Scrutiny in developing a greater understanding of the impact, exploring key issues, and contributing to the development of new policy will be important in shaping the future of Cumbria.

Helen Blake
Senior Manager Customer, Policy and Scrutiny
13 May 2020

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme – March 2020

Appendix 2 – Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 June 2020 – 31 July 2020

Previous Relevant Council or Executive Decisions *[including Local Committees]*

No previous relevant decisions.

Background Papers

No background papers.

Contact: Helen Blake tel. 07795 452127 email helen.blake@cumbria.gov.uk