

COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting date: 9 September 2020

From: Chair of Scrutiny Management Board

SCRUTINY UPDATE REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 *This report updates Full Council on the work of Scrutiny and any issues and developments that have occurred since the last meeting of Full Council.*

2.0 ISSUES FOR FULL COUNCIL

2.1 *Members are asked to:*

Note the work programme presented as Appendix 1 and recent activity undertaken by Scrutiny set out in the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 In this report the Chair of Scrutiny Management Board would like to advise Members of the following issues:

Scrutiny Work Programme

3.2 The current Work Programme is attached as Appendix 1, which Members are asked to note. This is currently under review in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impacts, and the associated standing down of all Scrutiny meetings in March, and is to be considered by Scrutiny Management Board on 10 September 2020. The Work Programme will be updated to reflect the considerations of SMB Members on 10 September.

3.2 Scrutiny Advisory Boards have been considering the following matters since the last meeting of Full Council in February 2020:

3.3 Scrutiny Management Board met on 3 March 2020 and considered the delivery of the Council's Customer Programme, and the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019/20. The Board also received updates on the Performance Working Group and individual Boards.

- 3.4 Scrutiny Management Board also met on 22 May 2020 and received a report on the Council's response to Covid-19 to date. This was the first formal remote meeting held by the Council following the cancellation of all meetings in March as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 3.5 At this meeting the Board also considered the Council's Ways of Working and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated lockdown on the implementation of new ways of working. Board Members also received an update on planning for staff returning to the workplace. Updates from the Chair of each individual Scrutiny Board were also considered, in addition to an agreement to review the Scrutiny Work Programme in the context of Covid-19.
- 3.6 The Communities and Place Board last met on 12 March 2020 when they discussed the Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service inspection outcome and improvement planning, the Highways Asset Management Strategy, the implementation of the Highways Permit Scheme, and the proposed scope for a Task and Finish Group on development and infrastructure.
- 3.7 Over the summer the Board's work programme has been reviewed and work to establish the Task and Finish Group on securing infrastructure to effectively support new development has begun.
- 3.8 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Advisory Board has not formally met since the last meeting of Full Council; however, the Board has been undertaking activity over the summer to review their work programme and actively engaging with the Executive Director – People on a number of the key issues affecting children and young people over the past few months.
- 3.9 The Health Scrutiny Committee met on 25 February 2020 and considered North Cumbria vascular services, the System Plans from the North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust and Health Lancashire and South Cumbria, the redesign of child and adolescent mental health services in South Cumbria, and possible changes to the NHS podiatric service provided by University Hospitals Morecambe Bay NHS Trust.
- 3.10 Over the summer the Health Scrutiny Committee has been reviewing its work programme and engaging with key stakeholders on emerging issues.
- 3.11 The Adults Scrutiny Advisory Board has not formally met since the last meeting of Full Council; however, the Board has been undertaking activity over the summer to review its work programme and engaging with key stakeholders on emerging issues.
- 3.12 The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Scrutiny Board last met on 3 March 2020 and considered an update on the LEP 2019/20 Delivery Plan and plans for developing the 2020/21 Plan, the Local Industrial Strategy Work Plan with a focus on Places, and the initial assessment of the Annual Performance Review. The Chair of the LEP Scrutiny Board is holding ongoing discussions with the Chief Executive of the LEP in respect of the activity undertaken by the LEP in response to Covid-19 and their ongoing development programme.

- 3.13 The Scrutiny Performance Working Group met on 24 July 2020 to review the Council's Quarter 4 performance report and to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on performance. The Group is scheduled to meet again in October to review the refreshed Council Plan Delivery Plan.
- 3.14 Since March, Scrutiny Chairs have received briefings from relevant Executive Directors and Senior Officers on relevant issues to ensure Scrutiny has been kept up to date on the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on services, and on the decisions taken during this period.

Scrutiny Annual report

- 3.15 The Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019/20 was circulated to all Members in spring, following the cancellation of the Council meeting in April where the report would normally have been presented. The report outlines scrutiny activity throughout 2019/20 and the impact it has had. The report is available at <http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/536/2929/44057155318.pdf>.

Other Scrutiny Activity

- 3.16 On 19 August, a session to which all non-executive Members were invited was held for briefing and discussion on issues relating to local government reform. At this session, a number of issues were identified for the focus of Scrutiny engagement in relation to this issue over the coming weeks and months. A scope for task and finish scrutiny activity throughout the autumn will be considered by SMB on 10 September, and the Scrutiny Work Programme will be updated to reflect the agreed activity.
- 3.17 In early October, Scrutiny will hold the first of a number of activities for all non-executive Members over the coming months to input into the Council's strategic planning.

Call-Ins

- 3.18 No Call-Ins have been received since the last meeting of Full Council

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 All Scrutiny Boards will formally meet over the coming weeks with a refreshed work programme covering a range of activities.

Helen Blake
Senior Manager – Customer, Policy & Scrutiny
1 September 2020

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Current Scrutiny Work Programme

REPORT AUTHOR

Clare Killeen, Strategic Policy & Scrutiny Advisor
Email: clare.killeen@cumbria.gov.uk