COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting date: 16 November 2017

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 recent activity undertaken by Scrutiny

2.2 Members are asked to note the work programme provided as Appendix One.

3.0 BACKGROUND

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

3.2 Development of a Scrutiny Work Programme

3.3 Following the session all non executive Members were invited to on 26th July to consider the topics they felt should feature as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme, SMB considered a draft work programme when they met in September. This is presented as Appendix 1 for information. SMB are keen to ensure the work programme remains flexible as other topics and suggestions may come forward during the year or through the strategic planning process. Council will continue receive regular updates on the Scrutiny Work Programme.

3.4 Scrutiny’s Engagement in Strategic Planning

3.5 A full day Scrutiny Strategic Planning session will take place on 28th November to which all non executive Members have been invited. This will be an opportunity for Members to hear from the Deputy Leader, Chief
Executive, Corporate Directors and Assistant Directors about any proposals being consulted on.

3.6 Performance Working Group

3.5 The Performance Working Group last met on 2nd October when the Quarter 1 Performance Report was considered. Members received a presentation from the Chief Fire Officer about operational performance and discussed a number of areas of performance they noted from the quarterly report including recycling, Delayed Transfers of Care, Fostering and Adoption.

3.7 Additional Scrutiny activity:

3.8 Additional activity that has taken place or is underway is noted below:

- At the last meeting of Scrutiny Management Board Members considered the management of absence with positive progress being made against a detailed action plan. The also considered progress with the delivery of the Digital Strategy. SMB’s focus for the next few months will be engagement in the strategic planning process.

- The Scrutiny and Advisory Board for Children and Young People last met on 15 September 2017. Members received an update on children’s improvement journey and the preparations for Ofsted. The Board also provided pre-scrutiny of the LSCB Early Help Strategy inspection.

- The Adults Board last met on 2nd November. The focus at present is the scoping of a joint piece of work with the Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee to keep under review the progress with integrating Health and Care and scrutinise issues which cut across the remit of the Committee and Board.

- The Cumbria Health Scrutiny Committee last met on the 9th October, it examined the transfer of Community Health Services between the Cumbria Foundation Partnership Trust and the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust, as well the progress made in delivering the Cumbria Mental Health Strategy.

- At the September meeting of The Communities and Place Board, Members received a presentation on the new Fire and Rescue Service inspection arrangements to be implemented nationally from April 2018. Members agreed to develop options for how Scrutiny can effectively contribute to the assessment process. Progress with the HIMS system was also considered.

- The Centre for Public Scrutiny ran a session on Scrutiny Skills on 27th October. This session was well attended with the invitation extended to the Police and Crime Panel and Health Scrutiny. A dedicated training session for Health Scrutiny also took place the same day.

3.9 Call Ins

3.10 No Call Ins have been received since the last meeting of Full Council.
4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 All Scrutiny Boards have now met since the new Council formed and the work programme agreed by SMB comprises topics and issues that are closely aligned to the challenges the Council faces in delivering services at a time of reducing budgets and increasing demand.

Helen Blake
Senior Manager Policy and Scrutiny

31st October 2017

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Work Programme

REPORT AUTHOR
Contact: Helen Blake 01228 226639
helen.blake@cumbria.gov.uk