

**To:** Council

**Date:** 17 July 2023

**Report of:** Chair of the Scrutiny Committee 2022/23

**Title of Report:** Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2022/23

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To provide Council with a summary of Scrutiny activity during the 2022/2023 municipal year
<b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee 2022/23
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	All
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Council Strategy 2020-24
<b>Recommendation: That Council resolves to note the update report.</b>	

<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix A	Breakdown of Scrutiny recommendations 2022/23

## Introduction

1. This report provides a summary of Scrutiny activity during the 2022/23 municipal year.
2. During 2022/23 the Scrutiny Committee held 10 meetings; the Finance and Performance Panel held 4 meetings, the Housing and Homelessness Panel held 3 meetings; the Climate and Environment Panel held 1 meeting (plus 2 additional informal meetings); and the Budget Review Group held 4 meetings. The Companies Scrutiny Panel joined 7 Shareholder and Joint Venture Group meetings.

## Scrutiny Committee

3. The membership of the Scrutiny Committee during 2022/23 was as follows:
  - Cllr Dr Christopher Snowton (Chair)
  - Cllr Lizzy Diggins (Vice Chair)

- Cllr Lubna Arshad
  - Cllr Nadine Bely-Summers (*replaced by Cllr Sandy Douglas on 20 March*)
  - Cllr Tiago Corais
  - Cllr Barbara Coyne
  - Cllr Chris Jarvis
  - Cllr Edward Mundy
  - Cllr Lucy Pegg
  - Cllr Mike Rowley
  - Cllr Roz Smith (*replaced by Cllr Mohamed Altaf-Khan on 18 July*)
  - Cllr Marie Tidball (*replaced by Cllr Anna Railton on 03 October and subsequently Cllr Jemima Hunt on 28 November*)
4. At its first meeting of the municipal year, on 08 June 2022, the Committee reconstituted the following Scrutiny standing panels and review groups for 2022/23:
- Finance and Performance Panel
  - Housing and Homelessness Panel
  - Companies Scrutiny Panel
  - Budget Review Group
- The Committee also agreed to consider proposals for the establishment of a new Climate and Environment Panel at a subsequent meeting.
5. At its meeting on 07 November 2022, the Committee approved the constitution of the Climate and Environment Panel. The Panel's remit included consideration of climate and environmental issues and decisions, progress and performance monitoring; and monitoring delivery of existing strategies, policies and projects.
6. The temporary focus of the Committee's work on considering Cabinet reports rather than Scrutiny-commissioned work, adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic, continued for the most part during the 2022/23 municipal year. In September 2022, the Committee held a site visit to the Covered Market, which it is anticipated will be repeated if and when required, as Committee business dictates going forward.
7. A breakdown of Scrutiny recommendations and whether they were agreed, agreed in part, or not agreed is set out at **Appendix A**.

#### **Finance and Performance Panel and Budget Review Group**

8. The Finance and Performance Panel membership during 2022/23 was as follows: Cllr James Fry (Chair), Cllr Chris Jarvis, Cllr Tom Landell Mills [*replaced by Cllr Dr Christopher Smowton on 01 February 2023*] and Cllr Amar Latif. The membership of the Budget Review Group mirrored the membership of the Finance and Performance Panel.
9. The Finance and Performance Panel met 4 times during the municipal year to consider finance and budgetary issues and decisions, review the Council's budget position and monitor quarterly performance of Scrutiny-selected Key Performance Indicators.
10. The Budget Review Group met 4 times during January 2023. The work of the Budget Review Group concluded with the submission of a report containing 11 recommendations to Cabinet, which was then subsequently presented to Council

for noting in February 2023. Of the 11 recommendations, 10 were agreed in full and 1 was agreed in part.

### **Housing and Homelessness Panel**

11. The Housing and Homelessness Panel membership during 2022/23 was as follows: Cllr Paula Dunne (Chair), Cllr Lizzy Diggins, Cllr Laurence Fouweather, Cllr Jabu Nala-Hartley, Cllr Rosie Rawle and Cllr Jo Sandelson.
12. The Housing and Homelessness Panel met 3 times during the municipal year to consider strategic housing and landlord issues and decisions, homelessness, housing services performance and interaction with the Tenant's Forum. During 2022/23, the Panel welcomed 3 co-opted tenant ambassadors as non-voting members.

### **Climate and Environment Panel**

13. The Climate and Environment Panel membership during 2022/23 was as follows: Cllr Jemima Hunt (Chair), Cllr Paula Dunne, Cllr Emily Kerr and Cllr Katherine Miles.
14. The Climate and Environment Panel met informally twice, once for a briefing by the Council's Scientific Adviser and once for a brainstorming session suggesting ideas for the work plan for the 2023/24 municipal year. The Panel held its inaugural public meeting on 09 March 2023.

### **Companies Scrutiny Panel**

15. Revised arrangements were established for the Companies Scrutiny Panel in the 2022/23 municipal year, whereby members of the Panel were invited to attend meetings of the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group (SJVG) as non-voting members, with a view to providing more effective and efficient Scrutiny oversight of the shareholder function.
16. The Companies Scrutiny Panel joined 7 SJVG meetings as non-voting members during the municipal year. Commercial confidentiality prevents further reporting on those meetings.

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