

# MINUTES OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 NOVEMBER 2024

## PRESENT:

### Members of the Committee:

Councillors Timms (Chair), S Edwards, Freeman, Hassell, Lawrence, New and Srivastava

### Officers:

Aftab Razzaq (Chief Officer – Legal and Governance), David Burrows (Chief Officer – Regulation and Safety), Claire Baldwin (Community Safety Team Leader), Daniel Khan (Housing Advice and Benefits Manager) and Linn Ashmore (Democratic Services Officer)

**Also Present:** Richard Long (Head of Policy and Partnership, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner), DCI Charlotte Naughton (Eastern Area Commander) and Insp Jack Zielinski (Safer Neighbourhood Team)

## 12. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2024 were approved and signed by the Chair.

## 13. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 2) regarding an update on the actions arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

It was noted that finance training for the Committee will be arranged to be held within the next meeting on 8 January 2025.

**RESOLVED THAT** – the report be noted.

## 14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Parker and Sayani.

## 15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 16. COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 5) regarding a summary of the work in relation to crime and disorder delivered through the Rugby Community Safety Partnership Board (CSP).

It was noted that the Chair of the Rugby CSP Board, Councillor Edwards, had submitted apologies for the meeting as she was unable to attend.

The Chief Officer for Regulation and Safety presented the report and answered questions. Confidential copies of the Rugby Community Safety Partnership Strategy and Action Plan were circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting.

Richard Long, Head of Policy and Development for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire, Detective Chief Inspector Charlotte Naughton and Inspector Jack Zielinski were also in attendance and responded to questions and addressed the Committee.

Consideration of the annual report had slipped due to the General Election in July and the timing would be reviewed for next year. It was reported that the current CSP Plan was due to end in March 2025. The CSP Board was due to meet to consider the new strategic priorities for the next plan period.

A copy of the performance report for Q2 would be circulated by email and Members were invited to contact officers with any questions.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) Richard Long, DCI Naughton and Insp Zielinski be thanked for attending the meeting; and
- (2) the Committee be involved in the consultation on the new strategic priorities for the 2025 – 2029 period.

**17. DRAFT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 6) regarding the draft Homelessness Strategy.

The Housing Advice and Benefits Manager presented the report and answered questions from the Committee.

The draft Homelessness Strategy was due to be submitted to Cabinet at its meeting on 20 January 2025.

**RESOLVED THAT –** the points raised by the Committee be reported to Cabinet.

**18. REMOTE MEETINGS/PROXY VOTE CONSULTATION**

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 7) regarding the consultation by MHCLG relating to remote meetings and proxy voting.

The Chief Officer for Legal and Governance/Monitoring Officer reported that there was no detail on proxy voting and this should be considered with caution. More information on this would work in practice was welcomed.

**RESOLVED THAT –** the report be noted.

**19. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report (Part 1 – agenda item 8) regarding proposed changes to the current overview and scrutiny forward work programme.

The Committee considered the proposed changes to the current forward work programme at Appendix 1 to the report. The aim was to replace the items with more strategic issues.

It was agreed that portfolio holders would be invited to future meetings where these were more relevant to the topics on the agenda.

An overarching topic of the Customer Service Journey would incorporate relevant items from the current work programme, including the telephony system and the review of communication.

It was agreed that all task and finish groups would be disestablished. Following the change of administration of the Council, it was within the power of Cabinet to take forward any of these workstreams.

All councillors should have the opportunity to put forward topics for scrutiny and Cabinet should be invited to share their priorities and any areas where they would like scrutiny to focus on.

The work programme needs to be flexible enough to be able to react to any issues that may arise.

**RESOLVED THAT –**

- (1) the proposed changes to the overview and scrutiny work programme be approved;
- (2) a call be made to all councillors for suggestions of any topics to be reviewed by scrutiny; and
- (3) an open invitation be extended to Cabinet to share any items or topics where Scrutiny Committee could add value.

**CHAIR**