

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

Meeting: 16 March 2020

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Lisa Smart (Chair) in the chair; Councillors Keith Holloway, Helen Foster-Grime, Steve Gribbon and Wendy Meikle.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2019 (copies of which had been circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Governance Arrangements In The Light Of The Coronavirus Pandemic

The Chair referred to the potential future challenges to the governance arrangements of the Council in the coming weeks and months brought about by the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

It was stated that it was likely that there would need to be changes to the way in which decisions were taken and that work was taking place to establish what that might look like. The Chair commented that scrutiny chairs would have an important role to play in any future arrangements, but that the response to these challenges would be a whole-Council response and the whole 'scrutiny team' would need to work together closely during this difficult time.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations were made.

3. CALL-IN

There were no call-in items to consider.

4. UPDATE ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL - UNDERTAKING SCRUTINY IN STOCKPORT

The Strategic Head of Service (Legal, Democratic Services and Estate & Asset Management) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the recommendations that were made by the original review panel in relation to 'Undertaking Scrutiny in Stockport' and documents the activities and progress that have been made thus far.

The following comments were made/ issues raised:-

- It was acknowledged that significant progress had been made with regard to a number of the recommendations contained in the Committee's Final Report.
- The alternative ways of working undertaken by each of the scrutiny committees during the last Municipal Year were discussed. These included the use of single one-off 'deep-dive' meetings and site visits.
- Further consideration needed to be given by scrutiny committees, well in advance of its first meeting, on the development of a comprehensive work programme for the forthcoming year.
- The role of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee needed to be better defined, which included the work towards achieving parity of esteem between the executive and scrutiny. It was suggested that this should be included as an item within this scrutiny committee's work programme for the forthcoming year.
- It was commented that the job descriptions and role profiles that were being developed for each scrutiny committee should be circulated to members of the Co-ordination Committee for comment.

RESOLVED – (1) That the report and progress made thus far be noted.

(2) That an item be included on the Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the forthcoming Municipal Year in relation to further progress made towards achieving the recommendations contained within the committee's Final Report.

5. AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION REGARDING REPORTING TO SCRUTINY COMMITTEES BY CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

The Strategic Head of Service (Legal, Democratic Services and Estate & Asset Management) submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing the work that had taken place to address the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee in relation to the mechanism by which reporting arrangements to Scrutiny Committees by Cabinet Portfolio holders was agreed.

It was stated that it had now been agreed that the Co-ordination Committee would meet in advance of the first cycle of scrutiny committees after the Annual Council Meeting to make recommendations on the alignment of portfolios to individual committees.

It was commented that this approach was a sensible solution to this issue and officers were thanked for their work in bringing about a resolution.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and the proposed approach endorsed.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm