

RECOMMENDATION FROM SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**Report of the Strategic Head of Service & Monitoring Officer
(Legal and Democratic Governance)****1. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at its meeting on 26 April 2021 considered a report outlining the previous decision of the Scrutiny Committee that it would undertake a Scrutiny Review entitled “The Scrutiny of Outside Bodies” which would include within its remit the governance of those bodies established by the Council to manage or exercise certain functions with regard Totally Local Company, Stockport Homes Limited and Life Leisure; specifically the Contributors Committee, the Member Committee and the Funding Committee.

2. DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The following comments were made or issues raised by the members as part of their discussion on this item:-
- The progress made by the Scrutiny Committee in undertaking this review was behind where it had hoped to be and it was acknowledged that the review could not be completed within the remainder of the current Municipal Year.
 - The report provided a useful baseline in understanding where and how the Council developed the structures that it currently had in place.
 - There was a general consensus amongst members of the Scrutiny Committee that the current structure by which these functions were exercised was non-optimal.
 - There were a range of examples of how these governance-related functions were discharged elsewhere in the country by councils with similar arms-length arrangements for its housing, direct operations and leisure services from which Stockport could learn.
 - It would be useful to have an understanding of the benefits and disadvantages of the current arrangements in Stockport.
 - It was important that an appropriate distinction was drawn between the role of members as decision-makers and scrutineers when exercising the functions of these committees.
 - A discussion took place in relation to the Stockport Mayoral Development Corporation and how this had been established.
 - Clarity was requested with regard to the date on which leisure functions were transferred to Stockport Sports Trust.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee debated the matter and subsequently RESOLVED -

That the Cabinet be recommended to investigate the current arrangements for the discharge of the governance-related functions relating to the Council's partner

organisations currently exercised by the Contributors, Funding and Member Committees and to determine whether these remained the most appropriate structures for this purpose in the light of the experience and examples of good practice from elsewhere in the country.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Damian Eaton on 0161 474 3207 or by email on damian.eaton@stockport.gov.uk