

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 AND DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Report of the Assistant Director for Legal & Democratic Governance

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The report outlines a draft work programme and schedule of meetings for the Working Party for the 2023/24 municipal year and requests that members give consideration to any further items that they would like to have included on the work programme.
- 1.2 The report also details any amendments that the Monitoring Officer proposes to make under delegated authority.

2. AMENDMENT TO BE MADE UNDER DELEGATION

Funding Committee

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer has a delegation to make typographical changes to the Constitution; amendments to job titles, posts and the definition of the 'Corporate Leadership Team' and 'Executive Director'; and other such changes required to ensure compliance with legislation.
- 2.2 Under these arrangements, the Monitoring Officer proposes to remove reference to the Funding Committee from within Article 10 of the Constitution and other incidental references throughout the Constitution without further reference to the Council Meeting.
- 2.3 The Cabinet gave approval to a report on 29 June 2021 that outlines the governance arrangements for the Stockport Active CIC that had been established to operate Council leisure centres. As part of these proposals, the Funding Committee was to remain in place pending the full transition to the CIC, at which point the functions of the Funding Committee in relation to Life Leisure would either be carried out by scrutiny committees or, in the case of decisions on matters within the Members Agreement requiring the Council's consent, under authority delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive or Director of Place Management in consultation with the relevant cabinet member.
- 2.4 The Council Meeting has this year therefore declined to constitute a Funding Committee, and in line with the above decision, references to the committee are now obsolete.
- 2.5 The Working Party has previously considered the principle of removal at its meeting on 27 September 2022 and agreed with the proposal.

3. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 There are a number of items that it is proposed the Working Party considers during the course of 2023/24 as follows:-

3.2 CP8 – Planning Protocol

3.2.1 The Working party has previously given approval to the reintegration of the Planning Protocol within the main body of the constitution. It has subsequently become apparent that previous revisions to the protocol prior had removed reference to the call-up procedure for development applications. It is proposed that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Working Party that would seek to codify this process within the constitution.

3.3 Part 3, Section 3 - Individual Cabinet Member Functions

3.3.1 It has been identified that previous revisions to the individual cabinet member functions in 2016 has removed explicit reference to some functions that have both historically and have subsequently routinely been carried out by cabinet members.

3.3.2 Specifically, the cabinet member with responsibility for the making of traffic regulation orders currently doesn't have that function identified as being within their remit. It is proposed to codify this within Section 3 to make it clear that this is specifically within the range of delegations to individual cabinet members.

3.3.3 In addition, as a consequence of the removal in 2016 of the general delegation that allowed individual cabinet members to take any executive decision within their portfolio that were not key decisions or contract award decisions, a number of occasions have arisen where it has been unclear whether a function fell within the remit of a cabinet member.

3.3.4 It is proposed that the Working Party give consideration to the definitions of individual cabinet member functions to better clarify the range of their responsibilities.

3.4 Planning Scheme of Delegation

3.4.1 To consider proposed amendments to the planning scheme of delegation to clarify existing arrangements for the delegation of the determination of planning applications.

4. **PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

4.1 It is proposed that the Working Party meet on the following dates:-

- Wednesday, 6 December 2023
- Tuesday, 6 February 2024

5. **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Working Party is recommended to:-

(1) Note the proposed amendment to the constitution in relation to the removal of reference to the Funding Committee to be exercised under delegation by the Monitoring Officer.

(2) Give approval to the draft Work Programme detailed in Section 3 of the report and to proposed any further items for consideration.

(3) Give approval to the schedule of meetings for 2023/24 detailed in Section 4 of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Vicki Bates on 0161 474 3219 or by email on vicki.bates@stockport.gov.uk