Report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee

Scrutiny Programme Committee – 19 September 2023

Membership of Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups

Purpose:	The Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established. This report advises of relevant matters that need to be considered.
Content:	This report is provided to facilitate any changes that need to be made.
Councillors are being asked to:	agree the membership of Panels and Working Groups reported, and any other changes necessary.
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Peter Black, Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee
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1.   Introduction

1.1   In accordance with Council report 18 October 2012, when current Scrutiny arrangements were agreed, the Scrutiny Programme Committee is responsible for appointing members and conveners to the various Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups that are established.

2.   New Scrutiny Panels / Working Groups

2.1   Following agreement of a new Scrutiny Work Programme at July's Committee expressions of interest have been sought from all non-executive Councillors to lead and/or participate in the following new Panel and Working Groups:

- Inquiry Panel
  - Community Assets

- Working Groups
  - Public Rights of Way
  - Community Growing

2.2 The Committee is asked to agree the membership of the Public Rights of Way Working Group as follows, with Cllr Mike White as Convener:

Public Rights of Way Scrutiny Working Group (10)

Labour Councillors: 3

Victoria Holland	**Mike White (CONVENER)**
Dai Jenkins	

Liberal Democrat/Independent Councillors: 2

Peter Black	Michael Locke

Conservative Councillors: 4

Paxton Hood-Williams	Brigitte Rowlands
Lyndon Jones	Will Thomas

Green Councillor: 1

Chris Evans	

2.3 Interest is still being sought for the new Inquiry Panel and other Working Group and will be reported for agreement in due course.

3. **Revision to Existing Scrutiny Panel / Working Group Membership**

3.1 The following changes to existing Panels / Working Groups is also proposed:

- Education Performance Panel – ADD Councillor Fiona Gordon; REMOVE Councillor Sara Keeton

- Child & Family Services Performance Panel – ADD Councillors Victoria Holland, Mark Tribe and Sandra Joy

- Adult Services Performance Panel – ADD Councillors Victoria Holland, Michael Locke and Mark Tribe

- Customer Contact Working Group – ADD Councillor Dai Jenkins; and APPOINT Councillor Joe Hale as Convener

3.2 The Committee should also note that the Adult Services Performance Panel have renewed its co-option of Mr Tony Beddow for the 2023/24 municipal year.

4. Guiding Principles

4.1 When determining membership / conveners or agreeing any changes there are some key considerations for the Committee:

- It is necessary for more than one political group to be represented on each Panel / Working Group.
- These bodies also need to be of a manageable size in terms of team working and effective questioning.
- To ensure that all political groups have opportunities and are engaged.
- Good scrutiny practice places emphasis on respect for minority party wishes around both chairing of such bodies and the work programme.
- Being fair and balanced in the appointment of conveners, when there is interest from more than one councillor, e.g., giving opportunity to those who have not acted as convener previously.
- The Committee should reflect on the existing 'balance' of conveners to help inform future appointments.
- A minimum of three members should be present at all Panel / Working Group meetings.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no specific legal implications raised by this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no specific financial implications raised by this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices: None