

# CHILDREN AND LIFELONG LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

<b>DATE</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
<b>REPORT OF</b>	Assistant Chief Executive (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Children and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme Review
<b>STATUS</b>	Open

## CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

The scrutiny panels act as a reviewing mechanism for decisions made relating to the strategic policy, performance and resources required to deliver the ambitions of the Council and its key partnerships. The aim of the scrutiny process is to make sure decision making is robust by providing constructive challenge. This contributes to the Council being effective and efficient, and therefore it is integral to the delivery of the Council Priorities.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report reflects on progress with the panel's work programme at the half-year stage and provides a formal opportunity for the panel to update its work programme as it considers appropriate.

## MATTER(S) FOR CONSIDERATION

The panel is asked to consider progress made to date with its work programme and update it if it is felt that items need to be re-prioritised, removed or added. There is also the opportunity for an informal workshop if the panel feel that further discussions are required ahead of any formal scrutiny work.

### 1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 This report and its appendix summarises the 2021/22 agreed work programme and the panel's timetable of activities to undertake this work.
- 1.2 The panel's work programme remains flexible and the panel has the opportunity to amend it at any point throughout the Municipal Year. It is good practice to keep the work programme under review and the half-year stage seems an appropriate time to do so.
- 1.3 The review of scrutiny arrangements undertaken earlier this year did recommend that an informal scrutiny panel session be held half-way through the Municipal Year to monitor progress against their individual work programmes. This recommendation is acknowledged but, mindful of the pressures on Members' time, this report is brought to a formal meeting to ensure that the necessary review is undertaken but also to allow the panel the option of a further informal workshop session should it be considered appropriate.

### 2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include risk assessment(s) by the author(s) concerned.

### **3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS**

The work programme demonstrates the breadth of matters considered by scrutiny.

### **4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no financial considerations included within this report.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

There are no impacts on children and young people as a direct result of this report. The panel will have the opportunity to consider to any implications for children and young people as it considers individual items within its work programme.

### **6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no impacts on climate change and the environment as a direct result of this report. Any actions which the council may undertake as a result of recommendations made by scrutiny will be the subject of further reports, which will include climate change and environmental implications by the author(s) concerned.

### **7. MONITORING COMMENTS**

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Strategic Workforce Lead.

### **8. WARD IMPLICATIONS**

May impact on all wards

### **9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Annual report of scrutiny 2022/23

Panel tracking reports

Work programme report submitted to this panel on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### **10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)**

Beverly O'Brien – Scrutiny Advisor

**HELEN ISAACS**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**(STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER)**