

**Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

**Wards: ALL**

6 December 2021

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| <p><b>Notice of Key Decisions Report</b></p> |
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**Report of the Governance Group Manager**

1. Purpose of the Report and Summary

1.1 This report supports consideration by this Committee of the new entries in the Forward Plan in determining whether there should be any Overview and Scrutiny involvement in the issue.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee deal with the items as recommended at the top of each forward plan sheet.

3. Background

3.1 A key decision is a decision that:

- Will result in expenditure or savings in a full year of over £250,000, or
- Which significantly affects communities in two or more wards.

3.2 Key decisions can be made by the Leader, Portfolio Holder, Cabinet, Area Committees or Officers with the appropriate delegations.

3.3 The new additions to the Draft Forward Plan and the published Forward Plan are attached for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

3.4 As previously agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, all new Forward Plan entries will be considered by this Committee in the first instance.

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 When considering which items in the forward plan warrant pre-decision scrutiny, the following are proposed to be considered:

- (i) Does the proposed decision involve issues of Council policy, if so is the decision in accordance with existing policy or will it involve the amendment of Council policy?
- (ii) Does the Commission believe that pre decision scrutiny is likely to add value to the proposed decision, if so how?
- (iii) Has the proposed decision already received or will it receive Scrutiny or wider member input, if so is there any need for further member input?
- (iv) Is there time to scrutinise this effectively, bearing in mind the date for submission of reports?
- (v) Are there key issues that need to be raised in relation to the proposed decision?
- (vi) If it is decided that the matter will be considered, in what form should it be presented – report, briefing paper, presentation, etc?

## 5. Options and Risk Assessment

### **Option 1:**

- 5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee may choose not to consider any of the items any further. The risk associated with this option is that pre-decision scrutiny will not take place resulting in the potential of a reduction in democratic accountability.

### **Option 2:**

- 5.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee choose to delegate further consideration of any or all of the items to relevant Commissions, as detailed within the officer recommendation. Referral of the items as defined will ensure that Overview and Scrutiny fulfils its role in assisting the Council with developing policy and strategy at an early stage, whilst not considering items that do not add value to the work of the Committee or Council. The potential risk associated with this option is that additional resource pressures are placed on the reporting directorate and the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

## 6. Consultation

- 6.1 No specific consultation has taken place in respect of this report.

## 7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Option 5.2 is recommended as it will ensure pre-decision scrutiny and development of policy and strategy of the issues identified in the Forward Plan.

Alex Holgate  
**Governance Group Manager**

Contact Officer: Alex Holgate Telephone No. : 615019

Author: A Holgate  
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