

**SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 25 JULY 2023**

**MEMBER WORKING GROUPS 2023-2024 – TOPIC SELECTION**

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE**

**PART A – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 To seek Members views and approval of topics for the 2023/2024 round of Member Working Groups.

**2. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	The Member Working Groups Action Plans contribute to the overall progress of the Council Plan.
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	No	The proposed decision is not considered to have any adverse implications and is considered to comply with the Council's equal opportunities and diversity policies.
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
KEY DECISION	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	Each Member Working Group is due to complete by March 2024.	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	No	
LEGAL ISSUES	None	
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	None	Any impacts arising from the work of the groups will be addressed via individual reports from the groups.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

**PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**3. INFORMATION**

**3.1 Background**

In May 2023 the Council revised its arrangements around scrutiny panels. Previously there were three Challenge Panels held annually based around the themes of Your Council, Your Place and Your Community. A more flexible approach was adopted in May 2023 and the panels renamed Member Working Groups.

The Member Working Groups report to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to provide a progress report on the implementation of outstanding recommendations for each of the groups.

### 3.2 Topics for 2023/24 Member Working Groups

#### **Topic 1**

- 3.3 As the Council is in the final year of the current Council Plan, it is suggested that one Member Working Group could work on proposals for the new Council Plan, to be in place for 2024 onwards.

#### **Topic 2**

- 3.4 How we engage with our communities is vital to the delivery of our services and members have an integral role. Looking to capture and build on the many examples of good practice used by members in their wards, the Member Working Group would look to enhance the Council's position with regard to engagement.
- 3.5 Given the importance of the above two areas, members may determine that these should be the only two topics considered this year. Should members determine that more Working Groups should be held, then other possible topics are set out below.
- 3.6
- i) Climate Change – reviewing and refreshing the Council's approach – Carbon neutral – what it really means for the council
  - ii) Standing Orders for Meetings – fit for purpose in 2024?
  - iii) Food Waste Collection – how we are going to interact/engage our communities
  - iv) Best Value – Office for Local Government new criteria
- 3.7 It is suggested that no more than a maximum of three Member Working Groups operate at any one time to enable efficient and effective working.

### 4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Not applicable

### 5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

N/A

### 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

**7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1** For Member to consider and agree the topics for examination by the Member Working Groups for the current municipal year.

Report prepared by Lorraine Fowkes – Corporate Director of Governance