

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – 23 JANUARY 2024

UPDATE ON MEMBER WORKING GROUPS 2023/24

REPORT OF THE MEMBER WORKING GROUPS CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

1.1 To update members on the work undertaken at each of the three Member Working Groups for 2023/24.

2. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	The Member Working Groups actions plans and outcomes contribute to the overall progress of the Council Plan and objectives.
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (Equal) been completed?	
	No	For information report
	Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been completed?	
	No	For information report
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	No	Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee
KEY DECISION	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	March 2024	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	No	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the recommendations of the Member Working Groups will be addressed as part of those recommendations.
LEGAL ISSUES	No	There are no legal implications arising from this report. Any legal implications arising from the recommendations of the Member Working Groups will be addressed as part of those recommendations.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES including climate impacts and health impacts if applicable	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	None	

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3. INFORMATION

3.1 The Member Working Groups were introduced in 2023 to replace the former Challenge Panels that had been operating for a number of years. The Member Working Groups are informal meetings providing an opportunity for every member to scrutinise particular matters in significant detail on an annual basis. The topics for the Groups were agreed by Members on 25 July 2023.

3.2 Member Working Group – Climate Change

This Group is looking at ‘carbon neutral – what it really means for the council’. Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM is Chairman with Councillor Gary Burnett as Vice-Chairman. The group met on 6 November and received a presentation from an officer from Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council on their decarbonisation plan. The group met again on 7 December looking at the scope of the carbon audit, receiving an update on EV provision and on green travel.

3.3 Member Working Group – Community Engagement

This Group is looking at building on examples of good practice locally with regard to community engagement. Councillor Andy Adams is Chairman with Councillor Christopher Evans as Vice-Chairman. The group met on 6 November receiving a presentation on the new Community Engagement Toolkit by the 2023 Aspire Group. The group is due to meet again on 15 January after production of this report. A verbal update will be given as necessary.

3.4 Member Working Group – Council Plan 2024/2028

This Group is working on proposals for the next Council Plan. Councillor Martin Perry is Chairman with Councillor Bob Cope as Vice-Chairman. The group met on 13 November and 11 December. At the November meeting, Members received an overview of the results of the Residents Survey. At the December meeting, Members went through the proposed format of the new Plan covering: introduction, vision, council priorities, key documents/enablers, delivery arms and working in partnership. The next meeting is due to be held on 29 January.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4.1 N/A

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 N/A

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members note the progress to date of the Member Working Groups.

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