

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – 14 NOVEMBER 2023

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’. The first meeting was held on 4 October and Councillor Dan Kinsey BEM was elected Chairman with Councillor Gary Burnett as Vice-Chairman. The scope was agreed and a number of immediate actions agreed to enable the work of the group to progress including inviting representatives from other organisations to attend to share ‘green principles’ and understanding the costs involved and potential funding opportunities. The group is next due to meet on 6 November (after production of this report) and a verbal update can be provided as necessary.

3.3 Member Working Group – Community Engagement

This Group is looking at building on examples of good practice locally with regard to community engagement. The first meeting was held on 2 October and Councillor Andy Adams was elected Chairman with Councillor Christopher Evans as Vice-Chairman. The scope was agreed and it was acknowledged that it is about strengthening what is already working well, looking to share best practice with County and Parish Councils. The group is next due to meet on 6 November and receive a presentation from the Council’s Aspire Group on the Community Engagement Tool.

3.4 Member Working Group – Council Plan 2024/2028

This Group is working on proposals for the next Council Plan. The first meeting was held on 9 October and Councillor Martin Perry was elected Chairman with Councillor Bob Cope as Vice-Chairman. The scope was agreed and members inputted into the draft residents survey. The group met for a second time on 30 October reviewing the current Council Plan to help shape the new Council Plan, looking at the Place Narrative and the Locality Profiles. The next meeting will be held on 13 November.

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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