

**Report to:** Cabinet 7 November 2023

**Lead Cabinet Member:** Councillor Bill Handley

**From:** Councillor Graham Cone, Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee  
Councillor Stephen Drew, Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee

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## Update from Scrutiny and Overview Committee

### Purpose

1. This report informs Cabinet about the outcome of discussion among members of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee at the meeting on 19 October 2023.

### Northstowe Community Facilities

2. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee endorsed the report and was content with the responses to questions asked of the Lead Cabinet Member for Communities. The Committee asks that Cabinet notes the following key messages:
  - (a) Continuous consultation with, and feedback from, the community will be essential for many years to come, and Scrutiny and Overview Committee welcomes the news that funding has been agreed for continued provision of community development workers to support the development of Phases 3A and 3B.
  - (b) Learning from the past and using that knowledge to improve matters in future is really important. While the Committee welcomes efforts by the Council to cover the shortfall in funding from the Legal Agreement under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, it also welcomes an assurance that future such agreements will be negotiated in a way that removes or limits the Council's financial liability.

### Cost-of-Living Update

3. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee notes the progress of all projects and endorses the reason for the recommendation to Cabinet.
4. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee asks that, in considering the report on 7 November 2023, Cabinet bears in mind the following key questions:

- (a) How can the potential impact on local businesses such as cafes be addressed when setting up community hubs offering similar services but at no cost to consumers?
- (b) While noting that the focus this year would be on those with mobility issues, how can those in *real* need be identified and how can the stigma some people feel in seeking help be addressed?
- (c) How can social value be assessed?

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