

Report to: Cabinet 6 February 2024

Lead Cabinet Members: All

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

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 18 January 2024.

Draft 2024-25 Business Plan Action Plan

2. Having received responses to questions posed by Committee members, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee commends the draft Business Plan Action Plan to Cabinet subject to paragraph 3 below.
3. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee recognises the importance of working with partners (such as the Federation of Small Businesses) and Central Government and recommends that, in making its own recommendation to Full Council, the Cabinet
 - a. emphasises the need to train and recruit more child-minders in order to help parents back into work.
 - b. encourages efforts, especially in new communities, to recruit more foster carers and explores options for enabling its own council house tenants wishing to do so to foster additional children.
 - c. endorses inclusion in the Business Plan of 'Cambourne 25'.
 - d. supports an undertaking to review the accessibility and readability of the Business Plan.
 - e. supports an assurance that space at South Cambridgeshire Hall will only be rented out to businesses that do not cause reputational harm to South Cambridgeshire District Council.
 - f. considers the recruitment by South Cambridgeshire District Council of an Arts and Culture Officer to work especially in new communities and to help secure funding from the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority.

Detailed Directorate Draft Budgets 2024-25

4. Having received responses to questions asked by Committee members and having reviewed the draft budgets at appendices 1 to 7, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee commends the detailed directorate draft budgets to Cabinet.

General Fund Medium Term Financial Strategy

5. Having received responses to questions asked by Committee members and having reviewed the first draft of the MTFS that had been considered by Cabinet on 7 November 2023 and Full Council on 30 November 2023, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee commends the draft MTFS to Cabinet subject to updated information which would become available through the budget process.

Ermine Street Housing – Additional Growth

6. Having received responses to questions asked by Committee members, including details about how South Cambridgeshire District Council will obtain the money to lend to Ermine Street Housing, the process for conveying the loan or loans and ultimate responsibility for the debt, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee commends to Cabinet Ermine Street Housing's request for additional funding.

Report Author:

Ian Senior – Scrutiny and Governance Adviser
Telephone – 01954 713028