

**Report to:** Cabinet 12 March 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

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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 15 February 2024. Particular attention is drawn to paragraph 5 which is included for information only, and to paragraphs 3 and 7.

### **2023-24 Quarter Three Performance Report**

2. Having received responses to questions posed by Committee members, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee commends to Cabinet the Key Performance Indicator results and comments at Appendix A to the report and progress against Business Plan actions at the draft Appendix B.

### **Recommendations**

3. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee recommends that the Business Plan should acknowledge the issue of water consumption and the importance of identifying and implementing appropriate mitigation measures (Appendix B (Action 2(a)(i) concerning water scarcity).

### **Homelessness Strategy**

- 4 Having received responses to questions asked by Committee members, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee commends to Cabinet the new Homelessness Strategy 2023-2028.

### **Conservative Group Budget Proposals 2024-25**

5. Having reviewed the measures proposed by the Conservative Group, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee agreed by affirmation to submit them to the

meeting of Full Council on 27 February 2024 for consideration alongside the detailed draft budget for 2024-25.

### **Ermine Street Housing – Review of the Business Plan 2023-24 to 2032-33**

6. Having reviewed the report and received responses to questions asked by Committee members, the Scrutiny and Overview Committee commends to Cabinet the Ermine Street Business Plan for the period 2023-2024 to 2032-2033.

#### **Recommendations**

7. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee recommends
  - a. that reports such as the one relating to the Ermine Street Housing Business Plan should identify the audience, use Plain English to explain complex concepts, and clearly explain the meaning of unavoidable technical jargon.
  - b. that reports such as the one relating to the Ermine Street Housing Business Plan should set out in greater detail the risks to South Cambridgeshire District Council so that the Committee can help and support the Cabinet by proposing mitigation measures where appropriate. With reference to Ermine Street Housing, future reports about the Business Plan should address Strategic Risk SR25 (Ermine Street Housing (ESH) £100 million investment fails to deliver return) so that the Committee can consider the potential implications for the residents of South Cambridgeshire.

#### **Report Author:**

Ian Senior – Scrutiny and Governance Adviser  
Telephone – 01954 713028