

Report to: Scrutiny and Overview
Committee

16 July 2020

Lead Officer: Director of Corporate Services

Centre for Public Scrutiny, Scrutiny Improvement Review

Executive Summary

1. To present to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee the Centre for Public Scrutiny's report on its review of the Council's Scrutiny function. The Scrutiny Improvement Review report is attached.

Key Decision

2. No

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Scrutiny and Overview Committee:
 - a. Notes the attached Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) Scrutiny Improvement Review (SIR) report.
 - b. Endorses the Centre for Public Scrutiny's recommendations which are detailed in the SIR report.
 - c. Endorses the proposal in the SIR report that a Member workshop is held to consider the findings of the review and engage in ideas for change and improvement. This would take place in September 2020.

Details

4. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee agreed at its meeting on 17 December 2019 for an independent review of the Council's Scrutiny function to be undertaken by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

5. The CfPS is the leading national body promoting and supporting excellence in governance and scrutiny and is an independent national charity.
6. The review was carried out by the CfPS in January-March 2020.

Implications

7. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

There are no significant implications.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

A modern and caring Council

8. Endorsing the recommendations detailed in the review report will help ensure that the Council's scrutiny function is effective and in line with modern and best practice.

Background Papers

- Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overview-and-scrutiny-statutory-guidance-for-councils-and-combined-authorities>
- Centre for Public Scrutiny review proposal <https://bit.ly/2VNICCz>

Appendices

Appendix A: CfPS Scrutiny Improvement Review Report.

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