

Report of:	Head of Governance & Corporate Services
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Portfolio Leader:	Leader of the Council
Key Decision:	No
Report Track:	Cabinet: 01/04/21

Cabinet
1 April 2021
Proposed Changes to Scrutiny Committees to Align with the
Corporate Plan 2021-24

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval to changes to the Scrutiny Committee structure to align it with the new Corporate Plan 2021-24.

2 Recommendation(s)

Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council:

- 2.1 The dissolving of the four existing Scrutiny Committees and establishment of three new scrutiny committees for:
- Economic Recovery
 - Health & Wellbeing
 - Financially Resilient Council

3 Key Issues and Reasons for Recommendations

Key Issues

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan 2021-24 sets out the priorities and strategic objectives for the District for the next three years.
- 3.2 The proposed amendments to the scrutiny committee framework are intended to align the committees and their work with the new Corporate Plan and the priorities and objectives as set out in it.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.3 Aligning the Scrutiny Committees with the Corporate Plan 2021-24 will allow for effective scrutiny of the delivery of the strategic objectives and holding the Cabinet Portfolio holders to account.

4 Relationship to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's priorities and strategic objectives for the period 2021-24.

5 Report Detail

- 5.1 The Corporate Plan 2021-24 sets out 3 priorities:
- Supporting Economic Recovery
 - Supporting Health & Wellbeing
 - Financially Resilient Council.
- 5.2 The Council's current scrutiny committee structure is aligned to the Corporate Plan for 2018-23 and comprises 4 committees:
- Promoting Prosperity
 - Wellbeing (Health, Culture and Sport)
 - Community (Environment, Partnerships and Community Safety)
 - Corporate.
- 5.3 Whilst the committees could be broadly aligned with the new corporate plan and the 3 priorities, there would need to be some adjustments to the remit of the committees.
- 5.4 However, there is an opportunity to make a more significant change and align the Scrutiny Committee structure directly with the 3 new priorities. This would reduce the number of Scrutiny Committees from 4 to 3 and would deliver a saving of £2,138 in Members allowances.
- 5.5 The proposal is to dissolve existing the Scrutiny Committees and establish three new scrutiny committees for:
- Economic Recovery
 - Health & Wellbeing, and
 - Financially Resilient Council.
- 5.6 In practical terms, the main change would be having one committee covering the full remit of Health and Wellbeing rather than splitting it as it is under the current scrutiny committee structure. The Promoting Prosperity Scrutiny Committee would become Economic Recovery and the Corporate Scrutiny Committee would become Financially Resilient Council. There would be some subtle changes to the remits of these committees to reflect the strategic objectives set out in the Corporate Plan.

5.7 The tables below illustrates the proposed new committee structure and how the committees relate to Cabinet Portfolios.

Economic Recovery Scrutiny Committee:

Terms of Reference	Lead Officers	Cabinet Portfolios
<p>Delivery Plan: Supporting Economic Recovery “Clean & Green Recovery”</p> <p>Services / Functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development • Planning Policy & Development Control • Building Control • Markets • Town Centre Regeneration • Car Parking Strategy • Building of Council Housing and Retrofitting. 	<p>Head of Economic Prosperity</p> <p>Head of Housing and Partnerships</p>	<p>Economic Development & Planning</p> <p>Town Centre Regeneration</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Environment & Climate Change</p>

Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee:

Terms of Reference	Lead Officers	Cabinet Portfolios
<p>Delivery Plan: Supporting Health & Wellbeing “Greener, sustainable community and environment”</p> <p>Services / Functions: Healthy & Active Lifestyles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture and Sport • Health Scrutiny Statutory Functions • Commonwealth Games. <p>Vulnerable Residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Homelessness • Community Safety, CCTV and Partnerships • Disabled Facilities Grants • Housing Benefits • Voluntary Organisations & Funding • Poverty Emergency. <p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Open Spaces • Grounds Maintenance • Countryside Services, Trees, and Allotments • Environmental Health and Licensing • Environmental Protection • Private Sector Housing • Street Cleansing • Waste & Engineering Services • Bereavement Services. 	<p>Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles</p> <p>Head of Housing and Partnerships</p> <p>Head of Finance / Local Taxation & Benefits Manager</p>	<p>Culture & Sport</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>Housing</p> <p>Community Safety & Partnerships</p> <p>Environment & Climate Change</p>

Financially Resilient Council Scrutiny Committee:

Terms of Reference	Lead Officers	Cabinet Portfolios
Delivery Plan: Financially Resilient Council “Environmental impact of use of assets and resources”	Head of Governance & Corporate Services Head of Finance	Leader of the Council Corporate Improvement
Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Consultation • Corporate / Cross Cutting Issues • Finance • Council Tax and NNDR collection • Corporate, Support and Shared Services • Civic Support • Land and Property Holdings (excluding HRA property). 	Head of Economic Prosperity	Town Centre Regeneration Health & Wellbeing Environment & Climate Change

- 5.8 Each of the three Scrutiny Committees would have 13 Members. The Health & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee would also have 1 Staffordshire County Council Member for Health Scrutiny.
- 5.9 In addition, to the changes to the committee structure it is proposed to increase the meetings from 3 meetings to 4 meetings per annum to accommodate the wider remit of the committees. This proposal will be reflected in the Calendar of Meetings 2021/22 report to be submitted to Council on 21 April 2021.
- 5.10 Subject to Cabinet approval, revised Terms of Reference reflecting this proposed structure will be produced and submitted to Council for approval.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

The reduction in the number of Scrutiny Committees by one will result in a saving in Members Allowances of £2,138.

6.2 Legal

None.

6.3 Human Resources

None.

6.4 Risk Management

None.

6.5 Equality & Diversity

None.

6.6 **Climate Change**

None.

7 Appendices to the Report

None.

Previous Consideration

None.

Background Papers

None.