

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Scrutiny Reviews

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of matters proposed for and undergoing scrutiny. This is in accordance with all of the Council's priorities

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the report.

3. Detail

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee held an extraordinary meeting on 28 February 2024 to consider the Call-In request and took evidence from the Councillors who requested the Call-In. The Portfolio Holders for Resources & Personnel Policy and Housing were present. Further information was given by the Head of Economic Development & Asset Management.

On hearing the evidence and opinions presented, the Committee concluded that when the report was considered by Cabinet, the late submission of the Surveyor's report did not allow for Members to be fully informed when reaching a decision on the item. It was stated that the potential cost of repair of Fishpond Cottage may not be viable when considering the details of the Surveyor's report. Furthermore, the uncertainty regarding the potential grant from Homes England did not allow for Cabinet to be fully appraised of the financial outlay for the proposals leading to a lack of clarity in the report.

Cabinet stated that they had considered the issues raised but were content to continue with the original decision taken on 6 February 2024.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the Council Working Group met again on 17 May 2024. The Working Group is Chaired by Councillor S Dannheimer. The topic was considered to be a long term scrutiny review as the report covered a wide area of the Council. The group visited an Independent Living scheme and an empty adapted property to assess how the buildings could be accommodated to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and where reasonable adjustments had been met. Officers were in attendance to support the group.

Cabinet will receive updates at each future meeting as to the progress of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme as contained in the attached **Appendix** and is asked to give consideration to the future programme

and decision-making with knowledge of the forthcoming scrutiny agenda. It also enables Cabinet to suggest topics for future scrutiny.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

As contained within the report.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no legal implications arising from the report.

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

Not Applicable.

9. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows:

Not Applicable

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not Required.

13. Background Papers

Nil