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**Report of the Monitoring Officer**

<b>Scrutiny Reviews</b>
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**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 met on 28 November 2024. Members considered the request from the Chair of the Licensing Committee to give thought to the GamCare recommendations and requested the data from the National Gambling Helpline to support a decision to scrutinise the topic.

An update on the review on Markets Across the Borough was presented to the Members. The recommendations were initially presented to Cabinet on 3 October 2023. The Committee requested a further update in six months.

The Equality, Inclusivity and Diversity Working Group presented their findings of Parks Across the Borough along with their recommendations. The Committee welcomed the report and resolved that the recommendations arising from the report be submitted to Cabinet on 7 January 2024.

The Head of Finance Services provided an early opportunity to scrutinise and input into the Council's annual budget setting process. This included an overview of the Council's financial position through its Medium Term Financial Strategy, an update on the refreshed Business Strategy and the approach to the setting of fees and charges for 2025/26. The Committee suggested freezing the Lifeline charges and asked if the various Environmental Health Licences charges were fixed by legislation as the report indicated that some fees and charges had not been changed since 2023/24. The Head of Finance Services will update the Committee at the forthcoming Budget meetings in January.

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. The work programme 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**

Not applicable.

**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**

Not applicable.

**9. Union Comments**

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.