

Chair of Scrutiny Report -22 July 2021 Full Council

This is the first report of Scrutiny for 2021/22 and my first as Chair of the Committee.

At our first meeting we spent time familiarising ourselves with the work of scrutiny and what reviews should be considered for inclusion in the work programme of the committee for 2021/22.

There were two reviews that had been carried forward from last year and members agreed that both should continue. Due to the new membership of the committee both groups were re-established and tasked with their completion.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Ann Royle advised the committee that the Housing Review Group was continuing. A second meeting with the Managing Director of Calico was being arranged and a final report would be reported to committee in the next few months.

The Market Review Group was also re-established and tasked with bringing back proposals for its objectives and outcomes that it would seek to achieve.

Any further topics for review would be added to the work programme when appropriate.

At our July meeting we considered the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2021-24 and were supportive of its submission for approval by the Executive.

At my request the committee also received an update from officers on the Annual Monitoring Report which looks at the implementation of the policies in the Local Plan and members were able to ask questions and make observations.

We had also requested a paper on the possible impact on homelessness following the lifting of the ban on evictions which had been put in place during the COVID pandemic. We were pleased to welcome the Executive member for housing Councillor John Harbour who confirmed that this issue would be kept under review and be included in his reports to Council.

We noted that a private item on the Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings in respect of the sale of land at Holme Road was to be considered at the Executive meeting in August and have arranged an extraordinary meeting of Scrutiny on 10th August so that we can scrutinise this item prior to a decision being taken.

An Extraordinary meeting was held on 12th July to consider a report on Charter Walk prior to it being taken to the Executive. Members considered risks and benefits of the project, and there was strong support for the project to go forward.

Cllrs Howard Baker & Ann Royle, Scrutiny Committee Chair & Vice-Chair - July 2021