

Scrutiny Chair's report to 27 July 2022 Full Council

There have been two meetings of Scrutiny on 1st June and 7th July 2022 since the last Ordinary Full Council on 13th April 2022.

On both occasions there were no questions submitted by Members in advance of the meeting, although they could in future aid preparation and discussions at Scrutiny Committees.

The 1st June 2022 Committee looked at the constitutional place of Scrutiny within the Executive and Leader Model of decision making, including the recently published 28-day Notice of Key Decisions and Private Meetings to consider if any future Executive items would be scrutinised, Scrutiny Procedure Rules, and potential Scrutiny Reviews based on clear objectives.

The meeting considered 14 June Executive reports on Tennis Court Improvements and Management, Charter Walk progress, Enforcement and Cash Collection Contract, and Sale of Residential Properties.

In addition, the meeting also considered the Planning Authority Monitoring Report 2020-21 regarding the performance of policies in the Local Plan.

The 7th July 2022 Committee continued to look in detail at proposals for Scrutiny Reviews, including;

- a summary of the work done in 2021-22 by the Housing Review Group and its continuation during 2022-23, and

- following detailed consideration of a number of Members proposals on telephone answering, green energy, Finsley Gate regeneration, and empty buildings it concluded that one Members Scrutiny Review Group should be formed to look in more detail into selective licensing and gangs in the Queensgate area.

The meeting also considered 13 July Executive reports on the Play Strategy Review and Towneley Hall Repairs, and it should be noted that Members have been active during Scrutiny meetings and through the Chair/Vice Chair outside meetings to both prioritise where relevant but also be selective regarding Executive reports to be scrutinised.

Members agreed that future significant Executive reports on Rough sleeping, Shared Prosperity Fund, and Youth Investment Fund would be considered by Scrutiny Committee.

In addition, the meeting also considered a Performance Review 2021-22, the State of the Local Economy, and Policy Framework (Full Council) reports on Revenue and Capital Outturn 2021-22 and Annual Treasury Management 2021-22,