

IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP - COVID 19

Cabinet - 8 December 2022

Report of: In-depth Scrutiny Working Group

Status: For Consideration

Key Decision: No

Contact Officer: Charlie Sinclair, Ext. 7165

Recommendation to Cabinet: Consider the recommendations in the minutes of the Scrutiny Committee on 8 November 2022.

Introduction and Background

- 1 At its meeting on 9 November 2021, the Scrutiny Committee resolved to set up an In-depth Scrutiny Working Group to evaluate the effectiveness of the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2 The Working Group considered the actions taken in response to the pandemic and considered the effectiveness of the Council's Emergency Plan.
- 3 The Working Group was made up of the following members of the Scrutiny Committee:
Cllr Osborne-Jackson (Chairman)
Cllr London
Cllr Pender
Cllr Layland
- 4 The working group's report was considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 8 November 2022.

Recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

- 5 Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that
 - a) a small peer review of the Emergency Plan be undertaken
 - b) the Emergency Plan be reviewed by the Chief Executive every 2 years, to ensure it remained up-to-date
 - c) the Emergency Plan be reviewed by Members every 4 years, either at Cabinet or the relevant Advisory Committee

- d) the process for getting volunteers be formalised to create a body of trained volunteers with available contact details
- e) scenario exercises be undertaken every 4 years with the involvement of Gold and Silver Commanders
- f) the inventory of the Emergency Command Centre be regularly audited and kept in better condition

Key Implications

Financial

Sevenoaks District Council operates within a balanced, 10 year budget. Any recommendations would therefore need to be subject to further investigation to remain within the current allocated budgets.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

No relevant legal implications or Risk Assessment.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero 2030

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Appendices

Appendix A - Report of the Covid-19 In-Depth Scrutiny Working Group

Background Papers

None