

**Report to** Cabinet  
16 December 2020  
**Report of** Chair of scrutiny  
**Subject** Scrutiny committee recommendations

**Item**

**9**

**Purpose**

To consider the recommendations from the scrutiny committee meetings held virtually on 15 October and 19 November 2020.

**Recommendation**

To consider the recommendations made at the meeting of scrutiny.

**Corporate and service priorities**

The report helps to meet all the corporate priorities.

**Financial implications**

None.

**Ward/s:** All wards.

**Cabinet member:** Councillor Kendrick - Resources

**Contact officers**

Adam Clark, strategy manager

Emma Webster, scrutiny liaison officer

**Background documents**

None

# Report

## Background

1. The council's scrutiny committee is constituted of councillors who do not sit on cabinet. They are expected to review/scrutinise and oversee decisions made by cabinet. They can 'call in', for reconsideration, decisions made by cabinet or an officer which have not yet been implemented. The main functions of scrutiny are to hold cabinet to account by examining their proposals; evaluating policies, performance and progress; ensuring consultations, where necessary, have been carried out; and highlighting areas for improvement.
2. The committee makes recommendations for cabinet, the wider council and other stakeholders based on evidence on the issues scrutinised at their meetings.
3. At the scrutiny meeting on 19 November scrutiny discussed 'maximising opportunities to achieve zero rough sleeping following covid-19' from a report presented by the council's housing partnerships officer. Two expert witnesses with experience working for CRISIS, Citizens Advice Service and Shelter attended the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask cabinet to consider the following recommendations:

- a) look at how the council communicates the risk of becoming intentionally homeless to tenants, to clarify that the council is giving information and to reduce the perception of threat.
- b) provide a demographic of those who have received such communications to the scrutiny committee members.
- c) review council policies around intentional homelessness.
- d) ask the housing partnerships officer to provide online training to members on approaching people on the street and how to give advice.
- e) support landlords in how to deal with tenants who will have change in circumstances over the coming months.
- f) Contacting tenants who the council had previously contacted with improvement notices and also use rogue landlord databases as an exercise in early intervention.
- g) Work with county and advice agencies to map where to refer people who need early intervention services.
- h) lobby central government for increased funding.
- i) To thank officers for their work in this area and to acknowledge the good work the council is undertaking regarding tackling homelessness.

4. Representatives from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) attended the September meeting of scrutiny and took questions from the scrutiny committee. Due to time constraints not all questions could be answered during the meeting so the LEP provided written answers. At the October meeting of scrutiny these written answers were considered and recommendations were requested by e-mail. The following recommendations were agreed by scrutiny on 19 November:

It was **RESOLVED** to ask cabinet to consider the following recommendations:

- a) That the Leader of the Council requests from the LEP a clear plan and commitments for how they are going to meet the minimum target of reducing emissions by 13% year on year.
- b) To ask cabinet through the scrutiny committee or CEEEP as appropriate to consider investment opportunities within Norwich that would generate the best results in reducing emissions and providing community benefit, so that these can be fed into the new Norfolk & Suffolk Investment Plan.
- c) The LEP written answers refer to “Developing a dedicated vehicle for generating local energy in a way which benefits communities, and consider where targeted pilots could help us explore initiatives and learn from other leading areas/schemes”. The council is due a report on solar financing from the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment, therefore the committee proposes that the cabinet member meets with local community energy groups and the LEP to discuss a pilot in Norwich.
- d) Ask cabinet to promote grants from the LEP by including details in communication with businesses when sending out business rates letters.
- e) Ask the LEP to provide information on the self employed grant scheme and lobby government to provide more targeted support for those who are self employed.
- f) LEP has details of its grants programmes on the website, but it’s not clear what the impact of these is. Therefore the committee asks for a report on benefits delivered: impact on social mobility and local jobs
- g) ask the Leader of the Council to push for unions to be represented on the LEP board.
- h) To ask the Leader of the council as the council’s representative on the LEP to ask that it considers:
  - a) including clean growth and protection/enhancement biodiversity as key criteria for project applications.
  - b) regularly assessing the net impact of its activities (policies/programmes/funding) on carbon emissions and extent to which the LEP is meeting legal targets.

- c) review its strategic approach to transport planning which is currently dominated by major road building schemes and to bring its policies and funding contributions into line with net zero carbon target.
  - d) assist WildEast in helping to meet its goal of dedicating 20% of all land in East Anglia to biodiversity by 2030.
  - e) build on the goodwill and acknowledgement of climate emergency to press for carbon accounting. Chris Starkie acknowledged that - not enough was being done to meet the Climate Change Act's requirements. Small acts of carbon reduction need to be weighed against, and scaled up to exceed actual ongoing emissions and the first step is measurement. Tyndall report gives 13% annual reduction of Norwich emissions to meet targets in Climate Change Act. This is an engine of economic renewal and offers genuine opportunities to the many in high carbon jobs who will need alternative employment. The sooner this transition is managed, the more manageable it will be.
  - f) Recommend to the LEP that they lobby government for Universal Basic Income pilot scheme in Norwich to boost local demand.
  - g) Push for meetings to be held in public in order to increase accountability, transparency, public awareness and trust.
5. At scrutiny committee on 15 October during the work programme item it was agreed not to take any new select committees forward at this time and for Councillor McCartney-Gray to take work on safe drug consumption rooms to NHOSC for consideration. The substantive item was the council's response to enhancing community development following Covid-19, presented by the neighbourhood and community enabling manager. It was agreed that the work being undertaken around community engagement was positive and would give people a vehicle in which to engage with the council. There was discussion around the importance of delivering efficient public services with stretched time and resources and that it would be helpful for both councillors and residents to understand the council's internal processes.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask cabinet to consider the following recommendation:

Ask cabinet to commission a piece of work to refresh the constitution so that it more accurately reflects the collaborative nature of the council, for example, in discussions with councillors to include a rationale on why a project can or cannot be taken forward.

## Integrated impact assessment



**NORWICH**  
City Council

### Report author to complete

<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Committee date:</b>	16 December 2020
<b>Director / Head of service</b>	Annabel Scholes
<b>Report subject:</b>	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations
<b>Date assessed:</b>	3 December 2020
<b>Description:</b>	A summary of scrutiny committee discussions and recommendations from 15 October and 19 November 2020

	Impact			
<b>Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
/				
<b>Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Recommendations from impact assessment</b>
<b>Positive</b>
<b>Negative</b>
<b>Neutral</b>
<b>Issues</b>