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Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)

Date: 8 April 2020

Subject: Sustainable Development – Tracking of scrutiny recommendations/desired outcomes

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	☐ Yes	☒ No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	☐ Yes	☒ No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	☐ Yes	☒ No

Summary of main issues

1. This report sets out the progress made in responding to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny inquiry into Sustainable Development.

2. Scrutiny Boards are encouraged to clearly identify desired outcomes linked to their recommendations to show the added value Scrutiny brings. As such, it is important for the Scrutiny Board to also consider whether its recommendations are still relevant in terms of achieving the associated desired outcomes.

3. The Scrutiny recommendation tracking system allows the Scrutiny Board to consider the position status of its recommendations in terms of their on-going relevance and the progress made in implementing the recommendations based on a standard set of criteria. The Board will then be able to take further action as appropriate.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to:

    *   Agree those recommendations which no longer require monitoring;
    *   Identify any recommendations where progress is unsatisfactory and determine the action the Board wishes to take as a result.

1   Purpose of this report

1.1   This report sets out the progress made in responding to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny inquiry into Sustainable Development (21 March 2018).

2   Background information

2.1   In June 2017 the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure and Investment) resolved to undertake and inquiry into Sustainable Development. Terms of Reference for this inquiry were agreed at the Scrutiny Board meeting on 19 July 2017, when it was resolved that the Board would consider;

- The origins and definition of the term, sustainable development.
- The definition of sustainable development, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Against this framework and in relation to Planning, how the principles of sustainable development have been applied in Leeds, through the development plan process and via development management decisions, and how its principles have been translated into practice.
- In translating these principles, the key policy issues that have emerged, which have skewed the delivery of sustainable development in its wider sense and how have they been addressed.
- In terms of 'local sustainability', how Section 106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) assist with the delivery of infrastructure to support regeneration and growth.

2.3.   The review concluded in January 2018 and a report setting out the Scrutiny Board's findings and recommendations was published in March 2018. In July 2018, the Scrutiny Board received a formal response to the recommendations arising from this inquiry and a further update in April 2019.

3   Main issues

3.1   Scrutiny Boards are encouraged to clearly identify desired outcomes linked to their recommendations to show the added value Scrutiny brings. As such, it is important for the Scrutiny Board to also consider whether its recommendations are still relevant in terms of achieving the associated desired outcomes.

3.2   The Scrutiny recommendation tracking system allows the Scrutiny Board to consider the position status of its recommendations in terms of their on-going relevance and the progress made in implementing the recommendations based on a standard set of criteria. The Board will then be able to take further action as appropriate.

3.3   This standard set of criteria is presented in the form of a flow chart at Appendix 1. The questions in the flow chart should help to decide whether a recommendation has been completed, and if not whether further action is required.

3.4   The Board is asked to allocate a position status for each recommendation. Details of progress against each recommendation are set out within the table at Appendix 2.

3.5   Full Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019, with the stated ambition of working towards a net zero carbon city by 2030. The council has accepted that very urgent action is required to make our contribution to containing global temperature

rises within 1.5C. Beyond this limit, there is a strong scientific consensus that there will be catastrophic consequences for both humanity and the natural world. Since the declaration the council has adopted a new way of working, changing its own structures and governance processes to incorporate the new climate emergency priority.

3.6 A subsequent report was taken to the Executive Board in April 2019 which launched a Climate Conversation in the city and committed to develop an action plan for Leeds. A comprehensive report to Executive Board in January 2020 sets out the results of the consultation and the actions that the council is planning to take. These are referenced in Appendix 2 as appropriate.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Where internal or external consultation processes have been undertaken with regard to responding to the Scrutiny Board's recommendations, details of any such consultation will be referenced against the relevant recommendation within the table at Appendix 2.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 Where consideration has been given to the impact on equality areas, as defined in the Council's Equality and Diversity Scheme, this will be referenced against the relevant recommendation within the table at Appendix 2.

4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 The Best Council Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21 states that, the Council wants everyone to live in good quality, affordable homes within clean and well cared for places. It also states that that the Council wants everyone in Leeds to move around a well-planned city easily. The Best Council Plan also stipulates that the Council and Partners will be focusing on Inclusive Growth and 21st Century Infrastructure, as two of the best city priorities.

4.3.2 Sustainable Development supports a number of the priority areas or 'big ideas' in the Inclusive Growth Strategy which focus on People, Place and Productivity as stated in the Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy 2018 – 2023.

4.4 Resources and Value for Money

4.4.1 Details of any significant resource and financial implications linked to the Scrutiny recommendations will be referenced against the relevant recommendation within the table at Appendix 2.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 This section is not relevant to this report.

5   Conclusions

5.1   The Scrutiny recommendation tracking system allows the Scrutiny Board to consider the position status of its recommendations in terms of their on-going relevance and the progress made in implementing the recommendations based on a standard set of criteria. This report sets out the progress made in responding to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny inquiry into Sustainable Development.

6   Recommendations

6.1   Members are asked to:
- Agree those recommendations which no longer require monitoring;
- Identify any recommendations where progress is unsatisfactory and determine the action the Board wishes to take as a result.

7   Background documents[1]

7.1   None.

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[1] The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

Appendix 1

Recommendation tracking flowchart and classifications: Questions to be considered by Scrutiny Boards

Is this recommendation still relevant to the associated desired outcome?

No

Yes

1 - Stop monitoring or determine whether any further action is required.

Has the recommendation been fully implemented?

Yes

No

Has the set timescale passed?

No

Has the desired outcome been achieved?

Yes

No

Yes

Is there an obstacle?

No

6 - Not for review this session

2 – Achieved

Yes

No

3 - Not fully implemented (obstacle). Scrutiny Board to determine appropriate action.

Is progress acceptable?

Yes

No

4 - Not fully implemented (Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring.)

5 - Not fully implemented (progress made not acceptable. Scrutiny Board to determine appropriate action and continue monitoring)