



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Chairman of the Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health & Well-being) Committee: Annual Report 2021/22	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
Meeting of:	Corporate Management Team: n/a	
	Leader and Deputy Leaders: n/a	
	Leader's / Leader of the Opposition's Advisory Group / Independent Alliance Advisory Group: n/a	
	Council: 21/03/2022	
	Scrutiny Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being Committee: n/a	

Is this an Executive Decision:	NO	Is this a Key Decision:	NO
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Is this in the Forward Plan:	NO	Is the Report Confidential:	NO
If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:			
<p>Essential Signatories:</p> <p>ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE</p> <p>Monitoring Officer: Chris Ebberley</p> <p>Date Signature</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer: Sal Khan</p> <p>Date Signature</p>			

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

Date: 21st March 2022

REPORT TITLE:	Chairman of the Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health & Well-being) Committee: Annual Report 2021/22	
PORTFOLIO:	Leader of the Council	
HEAD OF SERVICE:	Chief Executive	
CONTACT OFFICER:	Daniel Arnold	Ext. No. x1626
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Non-specific	

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide a summary of the scrutiny activities undertaken by the Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health & Well-being) Committee during 2021/22.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council's Scrutiny Committees discharge the overview and scrutiny function under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000.
- 2.2 This Committee is tasked with:
- 2.2.1 Reviewing and/or scrutinising decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
 - 2.2.2 Reviewing and scrutinising the performance of the Council;
 - 2.2.3 Serving as consultees in relation to executive decisions and key elements of service plans when required; and

2.2.4 Producing progress reports and recommendations to the Executive arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process or refer to the Executive entire reports produced as a result of the scrutiny process. However it is the decision of the Executive whether or not such a report is subsequently submitted to Full Council.

2.2.5 In relation to health scrutiny, the Committee shall exercise any powers conferred by Staffordshire County Council, as well as any powers conferred by legislation.

3. Contribution to Corporate Priorities

3.1 This report can contribute to all priorities to some degree (depending on the subject matter of the scrutiny review in question); however the remit of this particular Scrutiny Committee is to consider services within the corporate priority areas of Community Regeneration, Environment and Health & Well-being.

4. Scrutiny Activities

4.1. Health Scrutiny Work Programmes

4.1.1. The committee formed two sub-groups to review GP Access and the impact of COVID-19 on health in East Staffordshire.

4.1.2. The GP Access sub-group will review how people currently access GP services, understand the current GP capacity in East Staffordshire as well as future demands, what measures are being put in place to streamline access, are new technologies being employed to manage demand and what innovations or best practice have been adopted in East Staffordshire.

4.1.3. The impact of COVID-19 on health in East Staffordshire sub-group seeks to examine the impact of COVID-19 on health services in East Staffordshire. The review will examine how GP and hospital services have adapted and what have been the consequences for patients? What services, if any, have been strained or stretched with the focus on the COVID-19 response? How has resident's long-term health been affected by services being reduced/rescheduled or cancelled? What learning can be applied to any future pandemic or operation of health services? What role can ESBC play?

4.2. Supporting and Engaging Communities

4.2.1. A sub-group of the committee has undertaken and completed a review into how local communities were engaged with and supported during the COVID-19 pandemic. This review involved discussions with Burton Albion Community Trust and Support Staffordshire.

4.3. Waste and Recycling

- 4.3.1. In collaboration with the Value for Money (VFM) Scrutiny Committee, the Committee has conducted a review into waste and recycling. The committee looked into the key challenges to recycling, what strategies are used to address these challenges and how other local authorities attempt to address these challenges.

4.4. Verbal update provided by stakeholders

- 4.4.1. Alongside the more detailed research pieces a number of short briefings have been provided by both external and internal stakeholders.
- 4.4.2. The Project Officer (Open Spaces) provided the committee with an update on the In Bloom Federation, the work undertaken in recent months and how local ward Councillors can participate in the various projects taking place throughout the borough.
- 4.4.3. The committee has received regular updates from the Health and Care Overview Scrutiny Committee of Staffordshire County Council.
- 4.4.4. A representative from HS2 provided an update to the Committee on the progress of HS2, the impact on the borough and the funding that is available to communities and businesses which would be impacted by HS2.
- 4.4.5. The committee received an update on housing developments and access to the GPs.
- 4.4.6. An update was provided to the committee on Beat the Cold.

5 Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Lisa Turner

- 5.1 There are no financial issues arising from this Report.

6. Risk Assessment and Management

- 6.1 The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

6.1.1. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

6.1.1.1. None

6.1.2. **Negative** (Threats):

6.1.2.1. None

6.2 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

7. **Legal Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:
Caroline Elwood*

7.1 There are no significant legal issues arising from this Report.

8. **Equalities and Health**

8.1 Equality impacts: The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

8.2 Health impacts: The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

9. **Human Rights**

9.1 There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

10. **Sustainability** (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

10.1 Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) **N/A**

11. **Recommendation(s)**

11.1 To note the report

12. **Background Papers**

12.1 Appendix 1: Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health & Well-being) Committee Reviews 2021/22 (below).

Appendix 1: Scrutiny (Community Regeneration, Environment and Health & Well-being) Committee Reviews 2021/22

Scrutiny Review of Supporting and Engaging Communities

Background and Scope

In March 2020 the country entered a nationwide lockdown in response to the global spread of COVID-19. With the introduction of lockdown many individuals and community groups mobilised to support and assist the most vulnerable in their locality. Existing charities shifted their resources to respond to the crisis and many new resident groups sprang to life in a bid to support each other. The first lockdown eased in the summer of 2020 only to be resurrected again in November with COVID cases rising. Once again, community groups and charities have been at the forefront of the response to this second lockdown.

Moving beyond the second lockdown, there is the distinct possibility of a third (or severe restrictions) which may impact negatively upon the residents and businesses of East Staffordshire. This scrutiny review seeks to look back at the previous lockdown downs and explore the lessons that have been learned, how community groups are engaged with, what improvements could be made, the role played by communities in responding to the virus and how can volunteer momentum can be maintained.

Draft Recommendations

- Hold a Member Briefing with Support Staffordshire and BACT to provide an update on community groups and volunteering in East Staffordshire and how members can support and get involved.
- Scrutiny to invite Support Staffordshire to Scrutiny meetings to provide an annual update on their work, the state of volunteering in East Staffordshire and check on ESBC's role in supporting the voluntary sector.
- Hold an annual volunteer forum/market place style event to encourage engagement opportunities between voluntary groups & members.
- An annual update to the relevant Scrutiny Committee on ESBC's role in supporting the voluntary sector.
- Review ESBC's voluntary grant schemes or supported schemes to ensure the general funding and support available are flexible to support the local context and need.
- A regular item in the member briefing to highlight any opportunities for volunteering.
- Review signposting of volunteer organisations on the Council website.

Review of Waste & Recycling Services

Background and Scope

In collaboration with the Value for Money (VFM) Scrutiny Committee, the Committee has conducted a review into waste and recycling

- What are the key challenges to recycling?
- What is the strategy to address these challenges?

- How do other local authorities attempt to address community challenges to recycling?

Draft Recommendations

- The Council undertake a detailed review into charging for the collection of garden waste.
- Brown/Garden waste bin collection is suspended in December and/or January.
- Review methods of communication to residents with regard to recycling.