

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>7 JULY 2021</b>
<b>THE COUNCIL'S RECOVERY AND IMPROVEMENT</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE</b>

## **1 Purpose**

1.1 To consider the Council's progress towards recovery and improvement.

## **2 Action required**

2.1 The Committee is asked to

- a) consider the information provided and use it to inform questioning and discussion;
- b) make recommendations if appropriate; and
- c) agree how to carry out further scrutiny of recovery and improvement in future meetings, in addition to the items already identified.

## **3 Background information**

3.1 The Committee has received a number of updates at previous meetings on progress to implement the recommendations of both the Report in the Public Interest concerning the Council's governance arrangements for Robin Hood Energy Ltd (PIR) and the Non-Statutory Review of Nottingham City Council(NSR), both of which took place in 2020.

3.2 In 2021/22, the Committee has agreed to focus its scrutiny in a more direct and focused way on elements of the improvement and recovery journey and the impact on policy and services, for example in the areas of strategic direction, financial stability and service changes.

3.3 The Committee would like to develop its role as a critical friend, with the ability to give proper consideration to, and potentially influence, essential plans and decisions being made in a timely way.

3.4 The Committee has already agreed a number of items for its work programme and scrutiny of these will be carried out from the perspective of recovery and improvement. The Committee is keen to consider all of its work through the lens of recovery and improvement, rather than continue to receive monitoring information on a regular basis.

3.5 At its previous meeting on 9 June 2021, the Committee agreed the following

- (a) use the information to be provided at the 7 July meeting, the Improvement and Assurance Board quarterly reports to Robert Jenrick (and his responses) and any other relevant sources of information, to agree on the focus for scrutiny of improvement and recovery at future meetings;

- (b) invite the Leader to attend each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting for approximately 15 minutes to provide a very brief update on key issues in relation to improvement and recovery, to aid work programme planning; and
  - (c) write to the Chair of the Improvement and Assurance Board to invite him (or another relevant external Board representative) to attend a future Committee meeting to discuss progress of recovery and improvement from an external perspective.
- 3.6 The Leader and the Chief Executive will present information on the Council's current progress in relation to recovery and improvement to support the Committee to identify appropriate items for scrutiny at future meetings, in addition to items already agreed. The second Improvement and Assurance Board report and Secretary of State's response (included at Appendix A of the report provided at Appendix 1 of this item) should also be used to help identify where scrutiny is best focused.
- 3.7 The Leader has agreed to attend as many Committee meetings as he can to provide a 10-15-minute update on key recovery and improvement priorities to aid this process.
- 3.8 Following questioning and discussion, the Committee should use the information acquired in its discussions under item 6 of the Agenda: Work Programme.

#### **4 List of attached information**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Recovery and Improvement

#### **5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

- 5.1 None.

#### **6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

- 6.1 Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Meeting, 5 May and 9 June 2021.
- 6.2 Nottingham City Council Improvement and Assurance Board: first report, 17 March 2021.

#### **7 Wards affected**

- 7.1 All.

#### **8 Contact information**

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