



Report title:

Report to: Council

Date: 20th March 2024

Report of: Councillor Tom Besford Chair of Community, Regeneration and Environment (CRE) Overview and Scrutiny Committee Report

Public or private: Public

Key Decision?: No

1. Report summary

- 1.1 The Communities, Regeneration and Environment (CRE) Overview and Scrutiny Committee brings together scrutiny of both the physical and skills aspects of economic regeneration, and the supporting work of services such as leisure, highways, housing, environmental services etc, that provide the opportunities for work and the improvement of life experiences for all communities in the borough of Rochdale.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on the activities CRE Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertook from December 2023, when the last progress report was presented to Full Council, to date.

2. Key Facts

- 2.1 Following Full Council meeting in December 2023, the CRE Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 30th January 2024 and on 5th March 2024. At the latter meeting, the Committee also reviewed agenda items that had previously been planned for a CRE meeting on 28th February 2024. This meeting had to be cancelled due to the parliamentary by-election held on 29th February 2024.
- 2.2 At its meeting of 30th January 2023, the Committee received a progress report on the Rochdale Safer Communities Partnership (RSCP), the development of a new community safety plan and the resources in place to enable the partnership to work effectively. Some concerns had been raised by the Committee on the position of the Community Safety Plan at its meeting of 1st August 2023. Members were now satisfied that the RSCP was adequately resourced to undertake its statutory duties and the development of the Community Safety Plan was undergoing.

- 2.3 As part of its work plan, the Committee reviewed quarter three performance against the Economy Directorate Plan, the Rochdale Development Agency Delivery Plan and the Neighbourhoods Directorate Plan. Members sought and received clarification about progress against some of the outstanding actions on the plans.
- 2.4 Throughout the municipal year, the Committee was informed about the scrutiny work undertaken by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The Committee regularly received the minutes of the three main GMCA's scrutiny committees and panels. Members had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the topics being scrutinised at regional level and to ask questions promptly addressed by officers from GMCA.
- 2.5 Finally, the Committee reviewed the draft report of the Housing Task and Finish Group, a sub-group of the main committee formed to conduct an in depth investigation of the housing system in Rochdale. Members discussed the report findings and agreed the recommendations to be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet.
- 2.6 CRE Overview and Scrutiny Committee exercises part of its functions through the Climate Emergency Sub-Group whose remit is to ensure that the Council realises its objective of "achieving net zero emissions for the Borough by 2038". The Sub-Group met on 19th September 2023 and its activities were reported at Full Council in October. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled on 14th March 2024.
- 2.7 At its last meeting for the current municipal year on 5th March 2024, the Committee received several updates concerning Highways Services, Environmental Management, Your Trust and its activities on community engagement, the UK Prosperity Fund, the Growth Company. Members had the opportunity to seek and receive clarification on various matters. The Committee also agreed the final version of the Housing Task and Finish Group's Findings report and was informed that the report would be submitted to Cabinet in May 2024.

3. Recommendation

Council is asked to note the update concerning the work of the Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the activities of its sub-groups.

Councillor Tom Besford

Chair – Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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