

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 March 2022

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet

1 SCRUTINY TRAINING

To agree training for Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 It has been recognised by this Committee that as the Council faces difficult decisions to meet targets within the Savings and Transformation Strategy, training will be useful to support Members of Overview and Scrutiny (O&S). In addition, early feedback from the recent Peer Review has highlighted O&S as an area which needs to focus on the challenges ahead, making robust informed decisions and developing a work programme that is aligned to Council priorities.
- 1.1.2 An initial free webinar provided by the LGA in November 2021 did provide some basic tips and techniques, however this was not well attended and did not provide enough in-depth content to fully assist Members.
- 1.1.3 It is therefore suggested that a standalone session in an evening at the Council Offices would be the best way forward. This would be a Member development session and all members of the O&S Committee would be expected to attend. Whilst we would like to press ahead with this as soon as possible, we do not have another meeting of O&S scheduled until June 2022, it therefore seems prudent to wait until after Annual Council in May, to ensure the full Committee, with any new Members can take advantage of this training.
- 1.1.4 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has been approached and can offer a training session that meets the Council's requirements. The proposal is attached at Annex 1.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 N/A

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 The cost of the training will be £800 + VAT. This is considered essential spend given the request from Members of O&S for further training due to the challenges ahead.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 N/A

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.6 Policy Considerations

1.6.1 Business Continuity/Resilience

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That Members **ENDORSE** the approach to training as set out in the report and detailed in Annex 1.

Background papers:

contact: Gill Fox

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive