

Harborough District Council



Report to Council Meeting of 7th October 2024

Title:	Update from the following Committees and Panels since the last Council meeting on 29 July 2024
Status:	Public
Report Author:	Naomi Kwasa, Senior Democratic Officer n.kwasa@harborough.gov.uk
Lead Councillor:	Leader of the Council, Councillor Phil Knowles
Appendices:	Appendix A – Minutes of the Cabinet Sub Committee Grants 11 th September 2024 Appendix B - Minutes of the Audit and Standards Committee 31 st July 2024 – to follow Appendix C - Minutes of the Employment Committee 5 th September 2024 Appendix D - Minutes of the Services and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel 31 st August 2024 – to follow

Summary

This report summarises the activities of the various Committees and Panels that have met since the last meeting of Council on 29 July 2024.

Recommendations

1. That Council note the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

The Council Procedure Rules include the provision for Council, at an ordinary meeting, to receive reports from committees and receive questions and answers on those reports.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. This report provides an update for Council on the activities of committee and panels which have met since the last meeting of Council.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Council's constitution provides at 4.1.15.11.2 that ordinary meetings of Council will "*receive reports from the Council's Committees and receive questions and answers on those reports.*" It is likely that the rationale behind this requirement is as a result of there sometimes being long periods of time between meetings of committees, which means that minutes are not approved and published for councillors who were not in attendance to review and ask questions about. By providing an update report and allowing Councillors to ask questions of the Committee and Panel Chairs in full Council, the Council ensures that there is timely oversight of the valuable democratic activity taking place within the Council.

3. Details

Executive Functions

- 3.1. The Cabinet Sub-Committee Grants met on 11th September 2024 and considered four grant applications. The minutes of this Panel are contained in Appendix A of this report.

Non-Executive Functions

- 3.2. The Audit and Standards Committee met on 31st July 2024 and considered the following reports; External Audit - Harborough District Council Audit Plan for year ending 31 March 2024, Internal Audit – Progress and Performance Update, Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2023-24 and Global Internal Audit Standards. The minutes are marked to follow.
- 3.3. The Employment Committee met on 5th September 2024 and considered a report on Pensions Discretions Policy Amendments. The minutes are included in Appendix C of this report.
- 3.4. The Constitutional Review Committee will be meeting on 3rd October 2024 and will consider a report on Voting Process at Planning Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Functions

- 3.5. The Services and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel met on 31st August 2024 and considered a Call-in request of the Cabinet decision (15 July 2024) on the "Criteria and allocations for £1m Community Grants Fund to Parish and Town Councils report". The minutes are marked to follow.
- 3.6. The Corporate and Performance Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting met on 26th September 2024 and considered the following reports; Q1 2024.25 - Finance & Corporate Performance Report and Equality Plan 2025-28.

4. Implications of Decisions

Corporate Priorities

- 4.1. The Council is committed to delivering its corporate priorities as set out in its corporate plan. Providing the information contained within this report gives assurance that the Council continues to work to deliver these priorities.

Consultation

- 4.2. This report reflects the activity of the committees, which all members were entitled to attend. No further consultation is required.

Financial

- 4.3. This report provides an update on the work of the committees and has no financial consequences for the budget set by the Council.

Legal

- 4.4. This report provides an update on the work of the committees and ensures the committees comply with the requirement to report their activity to Council as set out in the Council Procedure Rules.

Environment Implications

- 4.5. This update report does not impact upon the Council's commitment to achieving net zero carbon.

Risk Management

- 4.6. The contents of this report do not pose any risk implications for the Council as it provides an update on the work of a committee.

Equalities Impact

- 4.7. The Council has a statutory duty to consider and demonstrate equalities impact in all of its activities. However, the report does not directly impact upon the public sector equality duty given it reports the activities of a committee.

Data Protection

- 4.8. This report contains no private information.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1. Council is invited to note the democratic activity since the last meeting of Council as set out in this report.

6. Background papers

- 6.1. None

