

## PART A

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date of meeting:** 22 June 2017  
**Report of:** Committee and Scrutiny Officer  
**Title:** Scrutiny proposal - Tackling Loneliness

### 1.0 **Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides details of a new task group which has been proposed by Councillor Bilqees Mauthoor, following her motion to Council on 21 March 2017.
- 1.2 The task group will need to consider the proposal, attached as Appendix 1 to this report, and approve the task group's membership.

### 2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 that Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the scrutiny proposal submitted by Councillor Mauthoor and decide whether to establish a new task group.
- 2.2 that, if the task group is agreed, Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees the membership for the task group.

#### **Contact Officer:**

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**Report approved by:** Head of Democracy and Governance

### 3.0 **Detailed proposal**

- 3.1 At Council on 21 March 2017 Councillor Mauthoor moved a motion about loneliness. The motion sought "to help find strategic ways across party to help tackle loneliness". The motion was seconded by Councillor Peter Taylor. Council was asked to agree to

set up a task group to look at the prevalence of loneliness within the borough. The motion was agreed by all those present at the meeting.

- 3.2 Following the meeting the Committee and Scrutiny Officer sent the scrutiny proposal form to Councillor Mauthoor, who duly returned the completed form. The Committee and Scrutiny Officer met Councillor Mauthoor to further discuss the proposal.
- 3.3 The proposal suggests that the task group can meet Hertfordshire County Council and local charities to discuss the work they carry out in this field. It will provide an opportunity of raising awareness amongst councillors. It looks at signposting people who are suffering or those who are aware of someone who is lonely to clear points of contact.
- 3.4 On 6 June the Committee and Scrutiny Officer emailed all non-executive councillors informing them of the proposed task group and seeking expressions of interest in taking part in the review.
- 3.5 At the time of writing this report 4 councillors have expressed an interest in taking part in the review –
- Councillor Bilqees Mauthoor (proposer)
  - Councillor Rabi Martins (mental health champion)
  - Councillor Stephen Cavinder
  - Councillor Kareen Hastrick

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer will provide a further update at the meeting.

- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the attached proposal and confirm the establishment of the task group. The task group's membership will need to be agreed.

#### 4.0 **Implications**

##### 4.1 **Financial**

- 4.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that there are no financial implications associated with this proposal.

##### 4.2 **Legal Issues (Monitoring Officer)**

- 4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications.

### 4.3 **Equalities/Human Rights**

4.3.1 Having regard to the council's obligations under s149 of the Equality Act, the task group will consider if there are any implications that may need to be addressed as they make their recommendations to Cabinet.

### 4.4 **Potential Risks**

4.4.1 No potential risks have been identified at this stage.

### 4.5 **Staffing**

4.5.1 The administration for the task group will be carried out by Democratic Services. There are no direct staffing implications at this stage.

### 4.6 **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

4.6.1 No community safety or crime and disorder implications have been identified at this stage.

### 4.7 **Sustainability**

4.7.1 No sustainability implications have been identified.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny proposal form

## **Background Papers**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

- [Council agenda and minutes 21 March 2017](#)

## **File Reference**

None