

Part A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: Thursday, 23 July 2020

Report author: Senior Democratic Services Officer

Title: New scrutiny task group - WBC's relationship with W3RT during the COVID 19 pandemic

1.0 Summary

1.1 Following the decision of Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18 June, this report provides details of a potential scrutiny review about Watford Borough Council's relationship with the Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT) during the COVID 19 pandemic. The details in this report have been informed by discussions with the Managing Director, Donna Nolan.

1.2 The scrutiny committee is asked to consider the scrutiny suggestion and, if approved, agree the membership and chair from amongst the nominations received.

2.0 Risks

2.1

Nature of risk	Consequence	Suggested Control Measures	Response (treat, tolerate, terminate or transfer)	Risk Rating (combination of severity and likelihood)
The scrutiny committee does not agree to the suggestion	Non-executive councillors will not have the ability to review how well the community and voluntary sector was supported during the council's response to COVID 19 and to establish whether there are areas for improvement.	None	Tolerate	2

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the scrutiny proposal to review Watford Borough Council's relationship with the Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT) during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- 3.2 If the scrutiny proposal is approved, that Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees the task group's membership and chair.

Further information:

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4.0 Detailed proposal

- 4.1 Following the decision of Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18 June, this report provides details of a potential scrutiny review about Watford Borough Council's relationship with the Watford and Three Rivers Trust (W3RT) during the COVID 19 pandemic. The details in this report have been informed by discussions with the Managing Director, Donna Nolan.
- 4.2 Under a service level agreement, the council commissions W3RT to provide infrastructure support to the voluntary and community sector. W3RT has a focus on service delivery to strengthen the voluntary sector in Watford and enable it to thrive, ensuring that it has the best possible opportunity of delivering high quality, effective and value for money services to residents and service users.
- 4.3 The council has worked closely with W3RT to respond to COVID 19. It would be helpful for scrutiny to review the council's relationship with W3RT in delivering this response, to consider the lessons learnt and to establish any areas for improvement. The scrutiny proposal form is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.4 If agreed, the task group will need to agree a schedule of meetings with the various stakeholders. This schedule may include some daytime meetings, subject to availability.
- 4.5 Once the task group has completed its work, the final report and recommendations will be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22 October 2020, before being submitted to Cabinet for consideration at the beginning of November.
- 4.6 The scrutiny committee is asked to approve the task group's membership and appoint a chair. Committee members are reminded that a task group should comprise between three and five non-executive councillors. At the time of writing, the following councillors, listed in order of response, have put their names forward to participate in this task group:

- Councillor Glen Saffery
- Councillor Jennifer Pattinson
- Councillor Dawn Allen-Williamson
- Councillor Amanda Grimston

Councillors Saffery and Pattinson have indicated that they would like to be considered for the role of chair.

5.0 **Implications**

5.1 **Financial**

5.1.1 The Shared Director of Finance comments that other than the funding provided to W3RT, there are no financial implications in this report.

5.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1 The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

5.3 **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 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.

5.4 **Staffing**

5.4.1 The task group will be managed by Democratic Services.

5.5 **Accommodation**

5.5.1 The task group will be managed by Democratic Services.

5.6 **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

5.6.1 There are no community safety or crime and disorder implications as a result of this report.

5.7 **Sustainability**

5.7.1 There are no sustainability implications as a result of this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny task group 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 this report:

- Emails from those councillors interested in taking part in the proposed task group.