

# OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 SEPTEMBER 2023

## 24 REVIEW OF CIVIC FUNCTION MATRIX

Kerry Dove (Chief Operating Officer) and Christine Lewis (Principal Governance Officer) presented the report to the committee. They confirmed that they were seeking views on the civic scoring matrix and civic allowances. The current matrix was developed by a task group in 2015. However, since then there has been an increase in the number of invites from charity and community events. When an invitation falls in the amber section of the matrix, approval is sought from the Leader or Chief Executive on that. Members were asked if that function should be delegated to the Monitoring Officer instead. The IRP have also recommended amalgamating the Chair and Vice-Chair allowances.

- Members asked if the Constitution required LDC to have a Chair of Council. Christine Lewis confirmed that it is a legal requirement for there to be a 'Chair' of Full Council meetings. It is only a traditional aspect of the role that the Chair would attend local events.
- Members asked if a comparison had been conducted against other similar councils. It was confirmed that this had been done with the original Task Group in 2015 and could be reconducted if the committee wished. Kerry Dove noted that there is a personal responsibility on the Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure they are conducting appropriate checks and balances when determining if attending civic events are of clear value to residents.
- Members asked what the total allowance for the Chair and Vice-Chair was. It was confirmed that in 2023/2024 the Chair's allowance was £2,120. The Vice-Chair's allowance was £1,070. The Council Chair and Vice-Chair's SRA recognises that they may require additional ticket and clothing expenses.

Members agreed that the matrix was not working effectively in its current form and suggested a point scoring system instead. It was suggested the task and finish group examine the activities of the Chair and Vice-Chair of Council outside of the district and what benefits these engagements have

**RESOLVED:** The committee considered the matrix and the types of event invitations the Chair receives. The committee recommended a one-off Task & Finish Group be established to resolve this issue