

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD

28 APRIL 2023

DRAFT SCRUTINY REPORT: DEVELOPER-FUNDED HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to consider and approve the attached draft scrutiny report on Developer-funded Highways Infrastructure.

Background

2. During its performance monitoring process, the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel (previously known as the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel) expressed concern about the length of time taken for developer-funded highways infrastructure, mainly housing development, works to be completed. Specific areas of concern include the length of the overall process and the time taken for the Council to approve planning submissions from developers. The delay in completing developer-funded highways infrastructure works impacts on local communities, road users and businesses, therefore this area was identified as a priority for further scrutiny.
3. In January 2021, the OSPB agreed that a Scrutiny Task Group led by Councillor Alistair Adams should be set up to look at this area. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and subsequent impact on scrutiny priorities, this work commenced in October 2021.
4. The Terms of Reference for the scrutiny exercise were to investigate:
 - How to get developer-funded highways infrastructure built quicker for the benefit of residents and road users
 - How the Council can help ensure the planning conditions imposed on developers to build key highways infrastructure by certain deadlines are met.

OSPB's Role

5. One of OSPB's roles is to monitor the quality of scrutinies that are carried out to ensure that scrutiny reports are robust, and evidence based, and that they follow the terms of reference agreed by the OSPB.
6. To help with this, the OSPB has received regular verbal updates on the progress of the scrutiny from the Lead Members of the Task Groups.
7. Once the Board is content, the Scrutiny Reports will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 25 May 2023.

Purpose of the Meeting

8. The OSPB is invited to consider, comment on and approve the attached Scrutiny Report.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 - Draft Scrutiny Report: Develop-Funded Highways Infrastructure

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- [Agenda and Minutes for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on Wednesday, 6th January, 2021, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here](#)