

12th December 2024**Report of the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee****Matters referred to Cabinet in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules**

Scrutiny Committee	Title of Matter referred	Date of Scrutiny meeting
Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Impact of the changes to Winter Fuel allowance/Pension Credit	27 th November 2024

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To notify Cabinet of the report and recommendations from the Impact of the changes to Winter Fuel allowance/Pension Credit item that was discussed at the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the 27th November 2024.

Recommendations

Following consideration of the item the Committee agree to the following recommendations being made to Cabinet:

1. The appointment of a food champion to work with the Portfolio Holder to look at the food insecurities data and promote food security across Tamworth.

(Moved by Councillor C Bain and seconded by Councillor M Couchman)

Back Ground Information

Following the Government's decision that starting from winter 2024/2025, households in England would no longer be entitled to the Winter Fuel allowance. On the 17th September 2024 the Committee requested an update on what was being done to support those who may be eligible, but are not receiving Pension Credit, therefore no longer receiving their winter fuel allowance.

Executive Summary

At the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee Meeting on the 27th November 2024 the Assistant Director, Communities attended with Lee Bates from Community

Together CIC who provided the Committee with a presentation which included data around food insecurities within the borough.

The Committee acknowledged that there could be a number of causes for food insecurities including poverty/cost-of-living crisis, food supply chains, but that this can lead to residents buying cheaper rather than healthy food leading to obesity and other health related conditions.

As a result of the discussion around food insecurities the Committee resolved to make a recommendation to Cabinet that a Food Champion be appointed.

Options Considered

None.

Key considerations

1. Scrutiny committees have statutory powers to make recommendations to the Executive, and the Executive (Cabinet) has a statutory duty to respond. They may also make reports and recommendations to external decision making bodies.
2. The agenda for Executive meetings shall include a standing item entitled 'Matters Referred to the Cabinet In Accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules'. The reports of overview and scrutiny committees and sub-committees referred to the Executive shall be included at this point in the agenda (unless they have been considered in the context of the Executive's deliberations on a substantive item on the agenda) within one calendar month of the overview and scrutiny committee or sub-committee completing its report/recommendations.
3. Scrutiny recommendations are addressed to the Cabinet, as the main Executive decision making body of the council (or, where appropriate, an external agency).
4. Cabinet is being asked to note the scrutiny report / recommendations and that an Executive Response to the scrutiny recommendations be prepared for consideration by the Cabinet within two months from receiving the report or recommendations.
5. The minutes of the meeting of the scrutiny committee provide the record of the scrutiny committee's consideration of the issue and the scrutiny recommendations made during the meeting.
6. The scrutiny committee will be notified of the Executive Response made in respect to the scrutiny recommendations and may track the implementation of the Cabinet decisions and any actions agreed. This enables the scrutiny committee to track whether their recommendations have been agreed, what actually was agreed (if different) and review any outcomes arising

Report Author

Councillor Chris Bain

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