

**SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION PROPOSAL**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Deb Poole – Head of Transformation & Organisational Development
Wards Affected	None
Ward Councillor Consulted	No
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Board are requested to investigate the travel expenses claimed by officers throughout Covid-19 and associated lockdown. This follows a notice of motion put forward by Councillor P. M. McDonald at the Council meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 as follows:

*That this Council calls upon Overview and Scrutiny to investigate the amount of travelling expenses claimed throughout lockdown: to ensure the efficiency of working from home.*

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Board considers the request and agrees to one of the following:
- (a) that the request is included on the work programme and the Board undertakes the investigation, discuss broad terms of reference and sets a time scale for completion of the investigation; OR
  - (b) that the request is included on the work programme and a Task Group is established to undertake a more in-depth investigation, appoint a Chairman for the Task Group and set a time scale for completion of the investigation; OR
  - (c) that further information be requested from a relevant source before deciding whether or not further investigation is required; OR
  - (d) decide to take no further action.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report, however, if the proposal is accepted, any implications would be considered as part of the subsequent investigation undertaken.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report, however, if the proposal is accepted, any implications would be considered as part of the subsequent investigation undertaken.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 A request from full Council has been made to investigate the implications for the Council in respect of travel expenses claimed by officers during Covid-19 and associated lockdowns.
- 3.4 If the Board decides that it does wish to investigate this topic further, it then needs to decide whether it is appropriate for the Board itself to undertake the investigation or whether a more in-depth investigation is required and a task group established.
- 3.5 Another option is for the Board to request further information on the topic from a relevant source to assist Members to decide whether an investigation is required.
- 3.6 Alternatively, the Board could decide that it is not a topic it wishes to investigate, in which case no further action would be required.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.7 N/A

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 N/A

**5. APPENDICES**

None

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

7. **KEY**

None

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