1. SUMMARY

1.1 The Council’s scrutiny committees conduct themed reviews as part of an annual work programme. This is an opportunity for a committee to engage in a sustained way with a particular topic. This year the Communities Scrutiny Committee conducted its review on the public health approach to reducing violent crime. The attached report sets out the Committee’s findings and recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Cabinet is asked to approve the following recommendations:

(a) That the Communities Scrutiny Committee Themed Review report be noted;

(b) That the recommendations outlined in the report be adopted and taken forward as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2.
3. PROPOSALS

3.1 The Committee conducted its themed review throughout 2018-19, and its approach is outlined in appendix 1. Officers have prepared a proposed response which is attached as appendix 2. Cabinet are asked to review and approve the response.

4. OPTIONS & ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

4.1 The Committee has reviewed the Council’s policy and practice, and its proposals relate to current service delivery. It is a requirement for the Cabinet to consider each individual scrutiny committee themed review and respond to the recommendations within the report.

5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES (AND OTHER NATIONAL OR LOCAL POLICIES OR STRATEGIES)

5.1 The attached committee report sets out a number of ways the themed review has sought to link its work with the Creating Futures strategy, and take into consideration both local and national policies in respect to its area of focus.

6. CONSULTATION

6.1 Formal consultation is not required for a scrutiny committee to conduct a themed review. The Committee has, however, spoken to a range of witnesses and sought a diversity of views in respect to its topic, as set out in the report.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk

7.1.1 The recommendations have been developed so that they can be implemented within the existing budgets available to relevant services. However, if in preparing to implement the recommendations contained within the themed review report, they are not sustainable within existing resources and officers find that additional expenditure is required, a report should be brought back to Cabinet to explain either: a) why the recommendations cannot be implemented; or b) proposals to finance their implementation.

7.2 Legal

7.2.1 Part of the Council’s constitution sets out the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules including, in paragraph 5, the procedure for Policy Review and Development. This report has been prepared in
accordance with paragraph 6.1 of the procedure rules as a report by Overview and Scrutiny. The procedure rules provide that in carrying out any such policy review or development, Overview and Scrutiny must have regard to available budgets and resources (para.5.2) and make recommendations to Cabinet (6.1).

7.3 Equalities and Diversity
7.3.1 The Council must further take into account its wider Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 when making a decision. The Council will consider the impact of changes that might arise as a result of implementing the recommendations on those with protected equality characteristics, in particular where there is likely to be an impact on residents or service users from any changes to, or decommissioning of existing services. In order to assist with this, an Equality Analysis screening tool has been completed and is attached as appendix 3.

7.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)
7.4.1 The recommendations contained within this themed review report are not expected to have any concrete impact on sustainability, with the exception of that which might arise from day to day operations. These concerns will be taken into consideration by relevant officers during the design and implementation phase. If in preparing to implement the recommendations contained within the themed review report, they are noted to have a negative impact on sustainability, a report should be brought back to Cabinet to explain either: a) why the recommendations cannot be implemented; b) options to curtail the negative sustainability impact.

7.5 Council Infrastructure
7.5.1 The recommendations contained within this themed review report are expected to be delivered within existing council infrastructure and resources.

7.6 Brexit
7.6.1 There are no specific known implications regarding the impact of Brexit on the recommendations put forward in this themed review report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)
None.