

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5th July 2018

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – WORK PROGRAMME PLANNING EVENT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Matthew Dormer, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Governance and Partnerships
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Councillor Dormer was advised that the session would be taking place.
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton, Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services.
Ward(s) Affected	All wards.
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

This report provides Members with an opportunity to consider the outcomes of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning event, which was held on 25th June 2018. During the event Members explored a number of issues that might potentially be suitable for further scrutiny. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider whether to add any of these items to the Committee's work programme in 2018/19.

During the session Members also considered items that might be potentially suitable for scrutiny in 2019/20. Residents who are members of the Redditch Community Panel will be invited to consider each of these issues in turn and to indicate which they feel Members should prioritise in the next Community Panel survey, which is due to be circulated later in 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to RESOLVE to:

- 1) identify items raised during the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning Event to add to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme;**
- 2) note the issues raised as potential items for scrutiny, including pre-scrutiny, in 2018/19 as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 in the report; and**
- 3) note the subjects raised as potential items for scrutiny in 2019/20 which will form the basis of a question to residents in the Community Panel Survey later in 2018.**

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3. KEY ISSUES

Background

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee training was due to be delivered on 29th May 2018. However, as only a small number of Members could attend this training the session had to be cancelled. At a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 31st May 2018 Members discussed the cancellation of this training and agreed that it would be useful to hold an event in June 2018 to provide Members with an opportunity to consider items that might be suitable for further scrutiny during the year.
- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning event was held on 25th June 2018. At the request of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee all non-executive Members were invited to attend. In the event a total of 12 Members participated in the session.
- 3.3 During the event Members were invited to consider the different ways in which Overview and Scrutiny Members could investigate matters. This included:
- Receiving an overview of a subject at a meeting of the Committee. This could involve the presentation of a report to a single meeting of the Committee for information.
 - Undertaking Task Group or Short Sharp Reviews of a subject. This policy review work involves Members working in small groups to investigate a subject in detail over a period of month.
 - Pre-decision scrutiny, whereby Overview and Scrutiny Members investigate a matter in detail before the Executive Committee makes a decision on the subject. Where sufficient notice is provided in the work programme this may involve undertaking a Short Sharp Review.
 - Members carrying out independent research on behalf of the Committee and reporting back in respect of their findings.
- 3.4 Following an overview of the various approaches that could be adopted to scrutiny and where these might apply Members were invited to participate in three interactive sessions.
- 3.5 The first of these activities focused on doorstep issues that had been raised by residents with Members over the previous six months. Members were invited to match these issues to the Council's strategic purposes and then discussed in their groups whether they felt that the issues would be suitable for further scrutiny. The outcomes of these discussions are detailed at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.6 The second activity invited Members to consider the current edition of the Executive Committee's Work Programme (forward plan). Members considered each of the items in their groups and worked to identify items from the work programme that

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they felt would be suitable for pre-decision scrutiny. The outcomes of this session can be viewed at Appendix 2 to this report.

- 3.7 In their final activity Members discussed potential issues that might be suitable for scrutiny in 12 or 18 months' time. Residents participating in the Redditch Community Panel survey later in 2018 will be invited to indicate which of these issues they feel Members should prioritise for scrutiny in 2019/20. The outcomes of this consultation process will be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Members in due course.

Financial Implications

- 3.8 All scrutiny activities can have some financial implications, for example in respect of the costs of issuing paperwork for Committee meetings. It is therefore important to ensure that Members select subjects to scrutinise that will achieve best value for money for local residents.

Legal Implications

- 3.9 There are no specific legal implications.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.10 Overview and Scrutiny is a Member-led process. Members determine which items are added to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work programme, what evidence is gathered during an investigation and which recommendations to make to the Executive Committee and / or Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning event provided Members with an opportunity to propose items to add to the Committee's work programme.
- 3.11 Overview and Scrutiny activities should focus on strategic issues that matter to local residents. The event was designed to enable Members to identify issues that best match this aspiration.
- 3.12 There is currently one Task Group, the Care Leavers Scrutiny Task Group, which is due to report back to the Committee on 5th July 2018. There are also two permanent sub-groups of the Committee, the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and the Performance Scrutiny Working Group.
- 3.13 Once the Care Leavers Scrutiny Task Group review has been completed there should be officer capacity to support further reviews.
- 3.14 Members are asked to note that it is not intended that this event will provide the only opportunity for Members to suggest items for scrutiny. Members are encouraged to continue to suggest items for scrutiny, including pre-decision scrutiny, throughout the year as and when they feel that this would be appropriate.

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Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.15 There are no specific customer or equalities and diversity implications.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

No specific risks have been identified.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Door Step Issues – items identified as suitable for further scrutiny in 2018/19.

Appendix 2 – Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Items identified as potentially suitable for pre-decision scrutiny in 2018/19.

Appendix 3 – Community Panel – Items proposed for consultation with residents participating in the Community Panel Survey.

AUTHOR OF REPORT

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