

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6th June 2019

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – WORK PROGRAMME PLANNING EVENT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor David Thain
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Councillor Thain was informed about the training session.
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 29th May 2019. 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 2019/20.

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; and**
- 2) note the issues raised as potential items for scrutiny, including pre-scrutiny, in 2019/20 as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 in the report.**

3. KEY ISSUES

Background

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Planning event was held on 29th May 2019. All non-executive Members were invited to attend. In the event a total of 8 Members participated in the session.
- 3.2 During the event introductory training was provided in respect of the role of Overview and Scrutiny in the democratic process and the different types of scrutiny activity that can be undertaken.
- 3.3 Members were also invited to consider the different ways in which Overview and Scrutiny Members could investigate matters. This included:

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- 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 two interactive sessions.
- 3.5 The first of these activities focused on doorstep issues that had been raised by residents with Members over the previous twelve months. Members were invited to match these issues to the Council's strategic purposes.
- 3.6 The second activity involved Members discussing within 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.
- 3.7 During this session members also considered items that had been suggested as potentially suitable for further scrutiny by the Council's Corporate Management Team (CMT). Some of these subjects were similar to those that had been raised with Members by local residents. The full list can be viewed at Appendix 2 to this report.

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.

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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 Suicide Prevention Task Group, which is due to report back to the Committee November 2019. 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 Suicide Prevention 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.

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 2019/20.

Appendix 2 – Potential Items for Scrutiny Suggested by the Corporate Management Team (CMT)

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COMMITTEE**

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