

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022

7th July

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – WORK PROGRAMMING PLANNING EVENT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Karen Ashley
Portfolio Holder Consulted	N/A
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton – Head of Legal Democratic, Democratic and Property Services
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Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An Effective and Sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. 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 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 1 in the report

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Training and Work Programming event was held on 6th June 2022. All non-executive Members were invited to attend. In the event a total of 9 Members participated in the session.
- 2.2 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.

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- 2.3 Members were also 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 investigations 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 months.
 - 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.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The first of these activities focused on doorstep issues that had been raised by residents with Members. Members were invited to match these issues to the Council's strategic purposes.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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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3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 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.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific legal implications.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 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.

Climate Change Implications

- 5.2 There are no specific climate change implications.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific equality and diversity implications.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 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

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provided Members with an opportunity to propose items to add to the Committee's work programme.

- 6.3 There is currently one Task Group due to be established, the Road Safety and Speeding Task Group. This has been delayed as result of the Local Elections that took place in May 2022. There are also two permanent sub-groups of the Committee, the Budget Scrutiny Working Group and the Performance Scrutiny Working Group.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 There is a risk that, if Members choose to scrutinise all of the issues identified during the Work Programme Planning Event and to pre-scrutinise significant numbers of items on the Executive Committee's Work Programme, that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could be overwhelmed with work. Members therefore need to be selective when identifying items to add to the Committee's work programme.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Door Step Issues – items identified as suitable for further scrutiny in 2022-23.

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9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	N/A	
Lead Director / Head of Service	Kevin Dicks – Chief Executive Officer	23/06/2022