

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022

1st December

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY – UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMMING PLANNING EVENT ITEMS

Lead Councillor	Councillor Bill Hartnett, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
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) note the updates to the issues raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Training Event held in June 2022 as detailed in Appendix 1 in the report and;
- 2) agree whether to include the four outstanding issues detailed in Appendix 1 in the Committee's Work Programme and, if so, to identify dates when these items will be considered.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Training and Work Programming event was held on 6th June 2022.

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- 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.
- 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 A report was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at a meeting held on 7th July 2022. At this meeting it was agreed that one of the issues identified should be considered at a main Committee meeting (Cost of Living) and some at Working Group meetings (the local environment including landscaping and tree services and housing issues.)
- 2.5 The Road Safety Task Group, which was delayed due to the May Elections and staff shortages within the Democratic Services Team, is due to begin meeting in December 2022. The Road Safety item that had been identified at the training evening will be considered as part of the task group investigation.
- 2.6 At a Full Council meeting held on 14th November 2022, Members agreed that an amendment to a Motion proposed by Councillor Sid

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Khan in respect of Bulky Waste be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration at its meeting on 1st December 2022. The amended Motion was agreed as follows:

RESOLVED that

Council is concerned about the cost-of-living crisis having a new impact on fly tipping, with the cost of bulky waste collection becoming a disincentive for many residents. Council asks the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to set up a Task and Finish review, to consider the costs, consequences and benefits of a pre-booked, free household bulky waste collection service for those Redditch residents who are low paid, elderly, disabled or in receipt of benefits, which will enable Members to consider options and determine what action, if any, to take.

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. However, issuing paperwork for Committee meetings has negative implications in terms

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of potential carbon emissions. As an alternative, Members can view agendas and minutes in electronic format wherever possible.

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

6.3 There are currently two Task Groups that have been agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Road Safety and Speeding Task Group which, as outlined earlier in this report, was delayed as result of the Local Elections that took place in May 2022. However, meetings of this Task Group are due to commence in December 2022. A further review, Health Inequalities within the BME Community Task Group, was agreed at a meeting of the Committee on 5th September 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.

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8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Update on 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
Chair of O&S Committee	Councillor Bill Hartnett	22 nd November 2022
Lead Director / Head of Service	Kevin Dicks – Chief Executive Officer	21st November 2022