

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 25 MAY 2016**

### **MEMBER UPDATE AND CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to:
  - (a) Receive an update on emerging issues and developments within the particular remit of each member of the OSPB, including an update on each Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Task Group;
  - (b) Consider the Council's latest Forward Plan in order to identify:
    - any items it would wish to consider further at a future meeting; and
    - any items it would wish to refer to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel for further consideration.
  - (c) Consider proposals in relation to 'Consideration of Health Issues'

#### **Member Updates**

2. In order to ensure that Members of the OSPB are fully informed about issues relating to scrutiny in Worcestershire, communication between Members is essential. To assist in this, it has been agreed that an item will be placed periodically on the OSPB agenda to enable each member to feed back on emerging issues and developments within their remit. This will also provide an opportunity to highlight possible future agenda items. Regard for the Council's statutory requirements in relation to access to information will be critical.

3. Board Members' areas of responsibility are as follows:

- Adult Care and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Tom Wells
- Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Lynne Duffy
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Paul Tuthill
- Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Kit Taylor
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Alan Amos
- Crime and Disorder – Chris Bloore
- Quality Assurance – Liz Eyre

4. As part of their role, it was agreed by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) that scrutiny lead members should receive regular briefings from the Directorates they are shadowing. These briefings, alongside the Forward Plan (see below), can be used to help identify any emerging issues that may be appropriate for future scrutiny. Recognising that work across the County Council is of interest and value to all OSPB members, the notes from these briefings (where produced) are available to all members electronically.

5. Members may also be leading scrutiny task groups. It will be important for Members of OSPB to be aware of how each scrutiny is developing so that they can fully consider the final report.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairmen are asked to feedback on:

- progress on the work of their Panels and any scrutiny task groups they are leading;
- key issues from the Directorate that may be appropriate for future scrutiny;
- performance information they have queries or concerns about;
- items in the Forward Plan which they consider may be possible issues to scrutinise; and
- any other issue which they feel is relevant/of interest to the OSPB.

### **Cabinet Forward Plan**

7. Part of the remit of the OSPB and the four overview and scrutiny panels is to undertake pre-decision scrutiny, in particular in relation to issues to be considered at Cabinet or by individual Cabinet Members.

8. Accordingly, on 10 September 2009 the OSPB agreed that consideration of the Council's Forward Plan should be included as a standing item on OSPB agendas.

9. The Forward Plan is now a rolling electronic document. The latest edition of the Forward Plan available was 17 May 2016 (the date of publication of this Agenda) and is attached at Appendix 1.

10. For information, the currently programmed meetings of the Cabinet are:

16 June 2016  
21 July 2016  
22 September 2016

11. The Board is asked to consider the Council's latest Forward Plan in order to identify:

- Any items that it would wish to consider further at a future meeting;
- Any items that it would wish to refer to the relevant overview and scrutiny panel for further consideration.

12. The OSPB agreed to use a set of criteria (listed below) to help determine its scrutiny programme. A topic does not need to meet all of these criteria in order to be scrutinised, but they are intended as a guide for prioritisation.

- Is the issue a priority area for the Council?
- Is it a key issue for local people?
- Will it be practicable to implement the outcomes of the scrutiny?
- Are improvements for local people likely?
- Does it examine a poor performing service?
- Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
- Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

## Consideration of Health Issues

13. Currently, matters relating to children's health fall within the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Given that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has specific statutory powers in relation to scrutiny, it is proposed that in future all health matters are considered by HOSC in the first instance.

14. It is also proposed that, in order to ensure continuity between the two scrutiny bodies, a member of HOSC becomes a 'Children's Champion' tasked with feeding back relevant discussions to Children and Families O&S Panel.

## Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Forward Plan (as at 17 May 2016)

## Contact Points

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

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### Specific Contact Points for this report

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## Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board, 10 September 2009, 27 June 2013, 17 July 2013, 25 September 2013 and 23 September 2015.

[All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website here.](#)