

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 18 JULY 2017**

### **DEVELOPING A SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

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#### **Summary**

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to:
  - consider the reports from Panel Chairmen on Panels' discussions on potential work programme topics;
  - determine its Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18 to be considered by full Council.

#### **Developing a Scrutiny Work Programme**

2. At the start of the new Council, Overview and Scrutiny Members will wish to develop a scrutiny work programme that will be considered by full Council in due course.
3. Members are reminded that the Council's constitution includes a requirement for the OSPB – using the Panels where appropriate – to receive, comment and advise on the Council's policy framework.
4. In determining its Scrutiny Work Programme, the Board needs to take into account a number of points.

#### **2016/17 Scrutiny Work Programme**

5. In May 2016, the County Council considered and agreed the 2016/17 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. Subsequently in March 2017, the OSPB considered progress against this Work Programme and agreed that an update on work still to be completed should be passed to the new OSPB following the May elections, with a recommendation that the new OSPB should consider the initiatives highlighted by the 2017/18 Budget Scrutiny Task Group and the other issues which had not been completed in 2016/17.
6. The 2016/17 Work Programme, including an update on progress against each issue is attached as Appendix 1.
7. Although this has been used as a starting point for discussions with Overview and Scrutiny Panels, and Members may find these suggestions helpful as a guide, the OSPB and Panels are free to suggest other priorities.

## **The Views of Overview and Scrutiny Panels and HOSC**

8. On 19 June 2017, OSPB agreed that Panel and HOSC Chairmen should bring forward initial proposals to this meeting, following discussion with Panel Members. In doing this, they were asked to suggest ideas that are 'forward looking' and that will allow scrutiny to influence policy as it is developed. The views of the Panels are attached as Appendix 2.

## **Budget Scrutiny Task Group**

9. The 2017/18 Budget Scrutiny Task Group identified the following initiatives that may help to bridge the forecast financial planning gap:

- Trading of intellectual assets
- Use of assistive technology
- Sale and leaseback of Council property
- Investment in key worker housing via the Revolving Door Investment Fund
- Sale of small pieces of Council-owned land
- Residents zonal parking schemes and additional car parks
- The Council's role in post-Brexit subsidy mechanisms for rural activities.

10. The Task Group also recommended that Overview and Scrutiny should be supported to look into these areas as a priority following County Council elections in May 2017 in order to identify further potential savings.

11. The Board should therefore consider the priority of these issues.

## **Additional Issues**

12. Members may also wish to note the following:

- On 12 October 2016, OSPB agreed that the following should be included on the scrutiny work programme following the 2017 elections:
  - Sexual violence and rape
  - Cycleways
  - Highways Winter service policy
- At the Board's meeting on 18 January 2017, following a discussion on equalities and diversity, the following issues were suggested for the 2017/18 work programme:
  - Disability/SEN employment (Adult Care and Well-Being O&S Panel)
  - Rural isolation and access to services
  - Economic and social deprivation and access to services.

## **Sexual violence and rape**

13. During OSPB's discussion of the Annual Worcestershire County Council Community Safety report on 13 September 2016, there was a focus on support for victims of sexual violence and rape. It was agreed that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Lead Member for Crime and Disorder and the Chairman of HOSC would consider what, if any, further scrutiny was required in respect of support services in relation to sexual violence and rape.

14. Following the May 2017 elections, the Lead Member for Crime and Disorder has further considered the priority of this item and his views are attached as Appendix 3.

## **Forward Plan**

15. The Board will wish to take into account any issues arising from the Council's Forward Plan which is attached at Appendix 4.

16. The latest version of the Plan (available at the time of Agenda despatch) is routinely considered at each meeting of OSPB.

## **Directorate Specific Information**

17. Cabinet Member and Director Briefings attended by scrutiny lead members will also help identify suitable items for Scrutiny Panels to follow up, for example, forthcoming important public consultations.

## **Issues suitable for scrutiny**

18. On 19 June 2017, the OSPB agreed to continue using the 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?

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1: Items previously suggested as issues for scrutiny

Appendix 2: The views of the Overview & Scrutiny Panels

Appendix 3: Sexual Violence and Rape: the views of the Lead Member for Crime and Disorder

Appendix 4: Forward Plan

## Contact Point for the 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, and 19 June 2017
- The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

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