

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 26 SEPTEMBER 2018

MEMBER UPDATE AND CABINET FORWARD PLAN

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 and comment on the Update on the Budget Scrutiny process for 2019/20

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 – Juliet Brunner
- Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Fran Oborski
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Alistair Adams
- Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Kit Taylor
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Paul Tuthill
- Crime and Disorder – Paul Middlebrough
- 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. The Board will wish to take into account any issues arising from the Council's Forward Plan which is attached at Appendix 1.

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

9. 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.

10. 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?

Scrutiny of the 2019/20 budget

11. On the 1 and 2 October the Chief Financial Officer is proposing to hold briefing sessions for Scrutiny Panel Members in preparation for scrutiny of the 2019/20 Budget. All Scrutiny Panel Members are strongly encouraged to attend as the briefings will include important information to allow Members to fully scrutinise budget proposals.

12. In November, the Overview and Scrutiny Panels will meet with Cabinet Members and Directors to discuss progress made against current savings plans, where costs are being reduced/avoided and start to look at pressures and ways to manage demand.

13. In January 2019, the Panels will again meet with Cabinet Members and Directors to discuss future savings plans and the Council's Budget proposals following the Government settlement.

14. The Board is asked to consider and comment on this process for scrutiny of the 2019/20 Budget.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Forward Plan (as at 18 September 2018) (to follow)

Specific Contact Point for the Report

Alyson Grice/Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Officers
Tel: 01905 844962/844963
Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

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