

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 17 MARCH 2021

MEMBER UPDATE, SCRUTINY INDUCTION 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 remit of each Member of the OSPB, including an update on each Overview and Scrutiny Panel and Task Group;
 - (b) Confirm its support for scrutiny induction and training for new and returning Members following the County Council elections in May 2021;
 - (c) Consider the Council's latest Forward Plan 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.

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 feedback 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 – Jane Potter
- Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Tom Wells
- Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Alastair Adams
- Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Adam Kent
- Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Paul Tuthill
- Crime and Disorder – Rebecca Vale
- 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.**

Scrutiny Induction

7. Following the 2021 County Council elections in May, a programme of induction and training will be held for new and returning Members. An important part of this programme will be training for those Members who will be involved in scrutiny, including Overview and Scrutiny Panel Members and Chairmen.

8. The induction training will be a mix of training provided by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) and in-house.

9. The modules being provided by CfGS on 7, 8, 9 June are:

- Scrutiny essentials (for all scrutiny members)
- Chairing and Leading Scrutiny (for all scrutiny chairmen and vice-chairmen)
- Scrutiny of Adult Social Care and its relationship with Health Scrutiny
- Health Scrutiny and how it links to Integrated Care Systems (ICS), Health and Wellbeing Board and Adult Social Care.

10. In addition, during w/c 14 June, there will be individual informal panel meeting training, where it is intended that the CMR's, Directors and Assistant Directors will be invited to give an overview of the services provided (including service plans and challenges). There will also be an opportunity to look at recent budget monitoring and key performance indicators (KPI's) and a discussion about the work programme (including suggestions). Explanation of the practicalities of how the Panels run including agenda planning etc will also be covered in this session.

11. It is important for member development and the effectiveness of Scrutiny that all members involved in Scrutiny prioritise this training opportunity.

12. OSPB is asked to confirm its support for the suggested induction programme and consider what other training might be necessary.

Cabinet Forward Plan

12. The Board will wish to consider any issues arising from the Council's Forward Plan. The latest version of the Plan available at the time of Agenda despatch is routinely considered at each meeting of OSPB (attached at Appendix 1).

13. 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.**

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Forward Plan (as at 9 March 2021)

Contact Point for the Report

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Background Papers

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

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