

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 19 OCTOBER 2023**

### **SCRUTINY CHAIRMEN (AND LEAD MEMBER) UPDATE, WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

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#### **Summary**

1. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) are asked to consider and comment on the Scrutiny Chairmen (and lead member) updates, OSPB Work Programme, Scrutiny Task Group suggestions and the Cabinet Forward Plan.

#### **Member Updates**

2. In order to ensure that Members of the Board are fully informed about issues relating to scrutiny in Worcestershire, communication between Members is essential.
3. Members of the Board are therefore invited to feedback on recent Scrutiny meetings (including performance and budget monitoring), Task Groups and emerging issues and developments within their remit. Regard for the Council's statutory requirements in relation to access to information will be critical.
4. Board Members' areas of responsibility are as follows:
  - Adult Care and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Shirley Webb
  - Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Panel – David Chambers
  - Corporate and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Emma Stokes
  - Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Matt Dormer
  - Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Alastair Adams
  - Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Brandon Clayton
  - Crime and Disorder – Richard Udall
5. To assist in their role, scrutiny lead members have the benefit of regular briefings from the Directorates they are shadowing, something which was put into place by the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). 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 Board members, the notes from these briefings (where produced) are available to all members electronically.

#### **Work Programme**

6. From time to time, the Board will review its work programme and consider which issues should be investigated as a priority.

7. Worcestershire County Council has a rolling annual Work Programme for Overview and Scrutiny, which is agreed by Council on an annual basis. The last programme was agreed on 18 May 2023.
8. The Board is asked to consider its 2023 Work Programme (attached at Appendix 1) and agree whether any amendments are needed.
9. The main responsibilities of the Board are:
  - Commissioning work for Scrutiny Panels
  - Establishing Scrutiny Task Groups (agreeing Terms of reference and Reports)
  - Advising on Council's Policy Framework ie Sustainable Community Strategy (if any), Corporate Plan, Children and Young People's Plan, Local Transport Plan, Youth Justice Plan, 'Act Local in Worcestershire' framework, such other plans and strategies as required by law to form part of the Policy Framework or which may be and have been adopted to be part of that Framework eg Corporate Plan, Budget
  - Call-ins
  - Designated by the Council as its statutory Crime and Disorder Committee and must meet at least annually.
10. The Board 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 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 Task Groups**

11. At the Board's 6 September meeting, an initial discussion took place about possible areas for the next scrutiny task group. The Board has since sought suggestions from all Councillors and the Overview and Scrutiny Panels/ Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have also been consulted.
12. The most recent Scrutiny Task Group exercises have been:
  - Developer Funded Infrastructure
  - Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
13. All suggested topics received are included at Appendix 2. Taking into account the prioritisation criteria detailed in paragraph 10, Board members are asked to consider the suggestions put forward and agree which of those suggestions should be scoped out.

## **Cabinet Forward Plan**

14. 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 included (as Appendix 3) for consideration.

## **Purpose of the Meeting**

15. Members of the Board are asked to:
  - (i) provide feedback on the work within their Scrutiny remit, Panels and Task Groups
  - (ii) consider the Board's Work Programme and agree if any amendments are needed
  - (iii) agree a prioritisation list of scrutiny task group suggestions for further scoping
  - (iv) consider the Cabinet Forward Plan and agree whether any issues should be added to the Scrutiny Work Programmes.

## **Supporting Information**

- Appendix 1: OSPB 2023/24 Work Programme
- Appendix 2: Suggestions for Scrutiny Task Group Work
- Appendix 3: **Forward Plan 2023**

## **Contact Point for the Report**

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## **Background Papers**

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

All agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website.