

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD 25 APRIL 2024**

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

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#### **Summary**

1. Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (the Board) are asked to provide feedback on the work within their Scrutiny remit, Panels and Task Groups and any items to be considered from the latest 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 Cabinet 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.
6. 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.
7. 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**

8. Board Members recently discussed new ideas for topics to be scrutinised in detail. A *'Review of the Council's spend on Consultants, Locums, Temporary and Agency staff'* was agreed as the preferred topic to be taken forward. It is suggested that this work commences when the structural reorganisation of the Council has been completed. An intensive Select Committee style scrutiny exercise on this topic will therefore be planned for the Autumn and will take place over the course of a couple of days.
9. In the meantime, alternative suggestions for topics for a Scrutiny Task Group have been sought from Board Members.

### **Cabinet Forward Plan**

10. 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 attached at Appendix 1 for consideration.

### **Purpose of the Meeting**

11. Members of the Board are asked to feedback on:
- the work within their Scrutiny remit, Panels and Task Groups;
  - 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.

## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1: Forward Plan [Forward Plan](#)

## **Contact Point for the Report**

Samantha Morris, Overview and Scrutiny Manager - Tel: 01905 844963  
Email: [sjmorris@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:sjmorris@worcestershire.gov.uk)

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for 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.](#)

**FORWARD PLAN**  
**FORMAL NOTICE OF KEY DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN BY, AND PRIVATE**  
**MEETINGS OF, CABINET (OR OTHER EXECUTIVE DECISION-MAKING BODY OR**  
**PERSON)**

<b>Forward Plan</b>	<b>Decision Not Before</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
Transfer of Local Enterprise Partnership Function Cabinet Member Decision	15 April 2024	4
Severn Arts Load Configuration <i>New Entry</i> Cabinet Member Decision	22 April 2024	5
Resources Report – Provisional Financial Results 2023/24 <i>New Entry</i>	27 June 2024	6
'Called In' Decisions or Scrutiny Reports Potentially Key Decision	Within the plan period	7
Notices of Motion Potentially Key Decision	Within the plan period	8

All entries will be for decision by Cabinet unless otherwise indicated