

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE BOARD

25 APRIL 2024

REFRESH OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Summary

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to consider the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/25, prior to it being submitted to Council for approval.

Developing a Scrutiny Work Programme

2. The current 2023/24 Scrutiny Work Programme was agreed at Council on 18 May 2023. It is now timely for the work programme to be refreshed for the coming year. The refreshed work programme will be considered by full Council on 16 May 2024.
3. In preparation for this meeting, Panel Chairmen have consulted with their Scrutiny Panels, relevant Cabinet Members with Responsibility and Directors on any amendments they would like to make to their work programme. Draft Work Programmes for the Board, Panels and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) are attached at Appendix 1.
4. 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.
5. The Board is also asked to consider whether, in addition to the Policy Framework and standing items it considers, there are any other issues that should be added to its Work Programme.
6. In determining its Scrutiny Work Programme, the Board needs to consider a number of points.

Issues suitable for scrutiny

7. The Board has agreed to use the following criteria 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?
 - Is there any evidence to it is a poor performing service?
 - Will it result in improvements to the way the Council operates?
 - Is it related to new Government guidance or legislation?

8. In considering the proposed work programme Members should also aim for it to be:
- balanced, in terms of some topics being of longer duration and some being suitable for shorter study
 - Mixed in terms of covering different topics/directorates
 - Not so onerous that there is no flexibility and room left for smaller, additional items such as Call-ins, to be added in at a later time if the OSPB regards it as a priority, and
 - Taking account of the resources available to support scrutiny.

Purpose of the Meeting

9. The Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board (OSPB) is asked to:
- consider the reports from Panel Chairmen on potential work programme topics;
 - consider whether there are any issues which should be added to the OSPB's Work Programme;
 - determine the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/25 to be considered by full Council.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1: Draft 2024/25 Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Contact Point for this Report

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Background papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Assistant Director for Legal and Governance) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- [Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Performance Board on Wednesday, 21st July, 2021, 10.00 am - Worcestershire County Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

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