

For publication

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

Meeting: Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum

Date: 25 June, 2020

Report by: Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

For publication

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To provide the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum with an update on the development of the overview and scrutiny committees' (OSC) work programme for 2020/21.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the process to set the overview and scrutiny work programme for 2020/21 be considered.

2.2 That the interim work programme from June to September, 2020 be approved and that the final work programme for the whole of 2020/21 be submitted to the overview and scrutiny committees in September for consideration and approval.

3.0 Report details

- 3.1 The overall purpose of the overview and scrutiny function is to help the council achieve the best it can for its communities through ensuring robust decision making. Alignment of overview and scrutiny work with council priorities and resource allocations whenever possible will enable the best opportunity for the overview and scrutiny function to add value to those decisions and be more effective in its work.
- 3.2 The overview and scrutiny work programme will facilitate advanced planning, resource allocation and pro-active working with members, officers and other stakeholders to support the council in its decision making. The programme of work also makes transparent to all stakeholders, internal and external, what the forward planned work of OSCs will be.

4.0 **Work programming process**

- 4.1 Over the past four years, scrutiny has been using a work programming format that engages all scrutiny, backbench and Cabinet members in the process by holding interactive workshops. Unfortunately, we were not able to continue with this format in 2020 as the Government restrictions that were put in place in response to the coronavirus outbreak meant that physical meetings were not possible. The Democratic and Scrutiny team were also faced with additional challenges due to remote working and reduced staffing support following the redeployment of members of the team to support the Council's key services.
- 4.2 With the intention to involve as many members as possible, a short survey was carried out to gather information from members to produce a long list of topics that could be prioritised to form the work programme for 2020/21.
- 4.3 As with previous years, the Council Plan was referred to for inspiration to ensure scrutiny has an impact by aligning its

work to the Council's priorities. However, this year, many of the Council Plan activities will be subject to change, therefore members were also encouraged to consider topics that stood out from their role as ward councillors or that were affecting the Council as a whole, and areas where the Council may need to prioritise its resources as part of the post Covid-19 recovery.

- 4.4 The Chairs and Vice-Chairs met with the Democratic and Scrutiny Officers in May to discuss the outcomes of the scrutiny survey and how best to develop the new work programme taking into account the impact Covid will have on many of the topics.
- 4.5 At that meeting it was agreed that the work programme for the whole of 2020/21 would not be set until there had been time to consider the emerging picture of the impact that Covid will have on the Council and the communities it serves. All the topics that had been put forward were discussed and many included a need to assess what the impact of the coronavirus pandemic would have on that particular topic. It was therefore agreed that, at the first meetings of each scrutiny committee, portfolio holders and officers would be invited to give an overview of the impact of Covid in relation to the services which fall under the remit of each committee.
- 4.6 The Chairs and Vice-Chairs also chose one or two further topics for each committee based on the number of members who had put them forward and prioritised depending on impact on the public and recovery post Covid. This has provided topics for the first two meetings of each committee whilst a comprehensive work programme for the whole year is developed. Listed below are the topics scheduled for each committee; Appendix A contains more detail on the points within each topic that scrutiny members wish to review.

Meeting	June/July	September/October
Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum	Covid-19 response specific to committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Northern Gateway/Elder Way Development
Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee	Covid-19 response specific to committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee • Visitor economy with a focus on: Heart of Chesterfield Market reconfigurations Tourism
Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Covid-19 response specific to committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Open Spaces Strategy • 5 year housing supply

4.7 The Chairs and Vice-Chairs will meet again in the summer to carry out prioritisation of the remaining topics. The full list of topics that were submitted by all members is attached at Appendix A. Where multiple people suggested the same topic, these have been condensed. The topics will be prioritised using a scoring system based on the TOPIC methodology at Appendix B.

4.8 The results of the prioritisation will be shared with scrutiny members for comment before being put together into a work programme that will be brought to each scrutiny committee in September for consideration and adoption.

5.0 **Recommendations**

5.1 That the process to set the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2020/21 be considered.

5.2 That the interim work programme from June to September, 2020 be approved and that the final work programme for the whole of 2020/21 be submitted to the overview and scrutiny committees in September for consideration and approval.

6.0 Reasons for recommendations

- 6.1 To enable scrutiny members to have oversight of, and contribute to, the development of the overview and scrutiny work programme 2020/21.

Glossary of Terms	
OSC	Overview and Scrutiny Committees

Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
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Background documents These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
<i>This must be made available to the public for up to 4 years.</i>	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix A	Overview and scrutiny work programme items from the survey
Appendix B	TOPIC scoring for overview and scrutiny topics