

REPORT TO: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 11 JULY 2023

TITLE: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PLAN 2023/24

LEAD OFFICER: SIMON HILL, DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES
(01279) 446099

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: ADAM REES, SENIOR GOVERNANCE SUPPORT OFFICER (01279) 446057

RECOMMENDED that the Committee:

- A** Approves the draft work plan attached as Appendix A to the report.
- B** Notes the topic submission forms attached as Appendix B to the report.
- C** Agrees to hold an additional meeting on Thursday 5 October 2023.

BACKGROUND

1. The Scrutiny Committee approves its work plan at the first Committee meeting of the municipal year. It then has the opportunity to update its work plan at subsequent meetings in line with the Cabinet-Scrutiny Protocol
2. As set out in the protocol submission forms need to be submitted 28 days before the first meeting. These are then considered by the Senior Management Board who put together a draft work plan, which is then considered by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.
3. The Protocol also sets out that the Leader of the Council will be invited to the Committee's first meeting each year. A written statement by the Leader has also been provided (attached as Appendix C) setting out areas in the Cabinet's they feel they Committee can add value.
4. The Committee is invited to note the Cabinet Forward Plan (attached as Appendix D to the report) to aid its discussion with the Leader, as well as the current Corporate Strategy (attached as Appendix E).

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

5. In line with the process set out in paragraph 2 above, the draft work plan (attached as Appendix A to the report) has been produced. The Committee is invited to consider and approve this work plan in light of the review submission forms (attached as Appendix B to the report).

6. This year, in discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair, the work plan has been developed so that it has a smaller number of significant items, which the Committee can add value to. In particular, the Committee should note the inclusion of the emerging Corporate Strategy, which will allow the Committee to shape the strategic priorities of the Council. An additional meeting on 5 October has been proposed to enable this discussion to link in with the emerging Strategy's approval in December.
7. The Committee are also invited to consider items which may be included for pre-scrutiny following discussion with the Leader, and the Forward Plan. Consideration should be given to the type of pre-scrutiny that the item needs, for example, light touch or in depth, as well as any SMART objectives which would be relevant for the item.
8. In terms of the items which were submitted but have not been allocated space on the work plan, the reasons in respect of each item are set out below:
 - a) Policing and Community Safety Annual Review – This should be removed as a rolling review. Instead, the Police will be invited to attend in relation to specific topics that form part of the work plan. The Chair intends to submit a review form on Town Centre policing.
 - b) Online Gambling – It is suggested that this removed from the Work Plan as the Council has no licensing powers in respect of online gambling. It is unlikely that a review would have a meaningful outcome as the Council's influence over legislation is limited.
 - c) Councillor Enquiry System – The Council has just introduced a Councillor Portal and this needs to be monitored before any review is considered as the Portal may address current areas of concern.

IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Growth and Regeneration

None specific.

Author: James Gardner, Assistant Director - Regeneration

Finance

None specific.

Author: Simon Freeman, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance

Housing

None specific.

Author: Andrew Murray, Director of Housing

Communities and Environment

None specific.

Author: Norah Nolan, Assistant Director – Environment

Governance and Corporate Services

None specific.

Author: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Scrutiny Committee Work Plan

Appendix B – Scrutiny Committee Review Topic Submission Forms

Appendix C – Written Statement by the Leader (to follow)

Appendix D – Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix E – Corporate Strategy

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

SMB – Senior Management Board