

This Report will be made public on 15 April 2022



Report Number **OS/23/12**

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 23 April 2024
Status: Non executive decision
Responsible Officer: Amandeep Khroud, Assistant Director of Governance, Law and Democracy.

SUBJECT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME
24-25

SUMMARY: This report sets out a proposed work programme for Overview and Scrutiny work for the municipal year 24/25.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report OS/23/12.
2. To adopt and implement the Scrutiny work programme, set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report, for the municipal year 24/25.
3. To note paragraph 1.4 of the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Early 2024, suggestions for Scrutiny topics were sought from various sources, with the criteria that only issues which affected residents across the whole district would be considered.

In addition, the following topics would not be considered:

- Individual service complaints.
- Topics outside of the remit of the council, where the council has no powers or influence.
- Issues where Scrutiny has considered in the last 12 months.
- Areas relating to quasi-judicial functions, ie Planning and Licensing.

The final list of topics included Member and officer suggestions, community concerns, policies which were due for renewal, and topics rolled over from the previous year's Scrutiny work plan.

- 1.2 These suggestions were then circulated to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who were invited to score each item from 1-5 (5 highest, 1 lowest), based on each of the following criteria:

- High general public concern,
- Critical to council priorities and plans,
- High financial value,
- Risks in successful delivery.

- 1.3 Based on this, the nine highest scoring items were selected for the Scrutiny workplan. Nine items would make up the main workplan, with an additional three in 'reserve' for the Committee. These 'reserve' items will allow for some flexibility in the workplan, in the event that the Committee is required to consider other urgent matters.

The selections are shown in the table below.

Item No	Topic	High general public concern	Critical to council priorities and plans	High Financial value	Risks in Successful delivery	Total score
1	OP update (transition budget / plan, HE collaboration Agreement, Strategic partnering options etc)	36	36	36	35	143
2	FOLCA update	32	33	34	31	130
3	Flooding, poor water quality,	39	32	25	33	129

	Internal Drainage board.					
4	Actions to protect the council operations against a Cyber attack	24	35	32	30	121
5	Traffic disruption to Folkestone and the North Downs Area as a result of the EU's EES which is set to be introduced in October 2024	38	27	23	31	119
6	LUF update	28	32	27	30	117
7	Update on Council's climate and ecological emergency work	31	32	23	29	115
8	Equitability of council resource across the district	34	28	24	29	115
9	Transparency of planning process	35	29	23	26	113
The items below will be held in reserve						
10	Corporate Plan – consultation responses	25	34	24	28	111
11	Housing Allocations Policy	26	32	24	27	109
12	Waste and recycling reforms	31	28	21	29	109
The items below are statutory items and items referred from Council:						
13	PREVENT & Safeguarding (statutory item)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
14	Otterpool Park LLP Business Plan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
15	Budget Update 24/25	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

16	Cabinet Member updates	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
17	opposition business of council (03/04/24) - To consider the drafting of a Culture, Heritage and Tourism strategies, as part of the Corporate Plan refresh, and conduct consultation with stakeholders to include members, community organisations, residents and businesses	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
18	Motion from council (29/11/2023) – To refer to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the council’s procurement plan, with specific reference to section 5 in the action plan, Local Suppliers and SME participation, which is to be reviewed quarterly.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

- 1.4 Following the approval of the workplan the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will need to consider, alongside officers the desired outcome and scope for item(s) detailed within the Scrutiny work programme.
- 1.5 In addition to the items selected, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a statutory requirement to act as the Council’s Crime and Disorder Committee and to meet for that purpose at least once a year. This item will also form part of the Committee’s work programme.
- 1.6 There are also two items of business which have been added to the Scrutiny work plan as a result of work referred from Full Council. Both items will also form part of the Committee’s work programme.

- 1.7 The two remaining main items from the previous 23/24 workplan have been incorporated within the 24/25 selected items. The three reserve items within the scrutiny work plan were not considered in the current municipal year, and as they were reserve items, they will not be rolled over into the new work plan.
- 1.8 The work plan is drawn up on the basis that the Committee would consider two to three items per meeting, although there must be flexibility in the programme, to allow for any urgent items to be considered.
- 1.9 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to endorse the Scrutiny Workplan, prior to its consideration and endorsement at the Annual meeting of the Council on 08 May 2024.

2. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

2.1 Legal Officer's Comments

It is important for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to establish and agree a work programme. This will enable the Overview and Scrutiny committee to fulfil its constitutional and legal function.

2.2 Finance Officer's Comments

There are no financial implications to this report.

2.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report.

3. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting.

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The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Scores for all items.

Appendix 2 - Summary of each item.

Appendix 3 – The Overview & Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference.