



**Committee:** OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**Date:** WEDNESDAY, 13 JULY 2022

**Venue:** MORECAMBE TOWN HALL

**Time:** 6.00 P.M.

Councillors are reminded that as Members of Overview and Scrutiny they may not be subjected to the Party Whip, which is prohibited under the Lancaster City Council Constitution.

## AGENDA

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 (previously circulated).

**3. Items of Urgent Business authorised by the Chair**

**4. Declarations of Interest**

To receive declarations by Councillors of interests in respect of items on this Agenda.

Councillors are reminded that, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011, they are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. (It is a criminal offence not to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest either in the Register or at the meeting).

Whilst not a legal requirement, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9 and in the interests of clarity and transparency, Councillors should declare any disclosable pecuniary interests which they have already declared in the Register, at this point in the meeting.

In accordance with Part B Section 2 of the Code Of Conduct, Councillors are required to declare the existence and nature of any other interests as defined in paragraphs 8(1) or 9(2) of the Code of Conduct.

**5. Work Programme Items (Pages 3 - 11)**

Report of Head of Democratic Services.

## ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

**(i) Membership**

Councillors Richard Austen-Baker (Chair), Darren Clifford (Vice-Chair), Alan Biddulph,

Roger Dennison, Mandy King, Jack Lenox, Abi Mills, Joyce Pritchard and Alistair Sinclair

**(ii) Substitute Membership**

Councillors Gerry Blaikie, Tim Dant, Colin Hartley, Debbie Jenkins, Geoff Knight and David Whitaker

**(iii) Queries regarding this Agenda**

Please contact Jenny Kay, Democratic Services - email [jkay@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:jkay@lancaster.gov.uk).

**(iv) Changes to Membership, substitutions or apologies**

Please contact Democratic Support email [democracy@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@lancaster.gov.uk).

MARK DAVIES,  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,  
TOWN HALL,  
DALTON SQUARE,  
LANCASTER, LA1 1PJ

Published on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE****Work Programme Report****13<sup>th</sup> July 2022****Report of Head of Democratic Services****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide Members with an updated Work Programme for 2022/23.

**This report is public.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That Members note the report.
- (2) That Members consider what should be included in the 2022/23 Work Programme.

**1. Introduction**

The Committee is requested to consider its Work Programme for 2022/23.

**2. Details**

Part 3, Section 3 – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained in the Constitution advises:

Rule 9 (a) – The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Budget and Performance Panel will be responsible for setting their own Annual Work Programme within the Terms of Reference set out in Part 2, Section 5, 9 and 10 of the Constitution.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall write to all Councillors, the Chief Executive, and Directors and ask the public for issues that should be considered for inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme. A meeting to be arranged with the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Chair of Budget and Performance Panel, the Pre-Scrutiny Champion and members of the Council's Executive Team. This meeting will allow a preliminary prioritisation of submissions to be conducted and report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This being subject to the arrangements for consulting on future Work Programme items as set out in the Constitution continuing and the Work Programme being finally agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

In accordance with the Constitution items were requested and a meeting to consider these was held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Appended to this report are the existing and suggested items received for the Work Programme.

The Chair will report to the Committee regarding the preliminary prioritisation of the Work Programme.

**Conclusion**

The Committee is asked to consider the preliminary prioritisation of the Work Programme.

**SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

As there are no financial implications arising from this report the S151 officer has no comments to make.

**MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

**Contact Officer:** Stephen Metcalfe  
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## Suggestions for Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee Existing Work Programme

	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1.	Annual Healthcare meeting. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee establish an annual meeting to discuss healthcare matters in the district and invite representatives of relevant NHS bodies, including the local Clinical Commissioning Group and local medical practices. This meeting to take place in the next Municipal Year.	Requested by Council.
2.	Crime and Disorder meeting – usually held in November each year. Annual Crime and Disorder meeting. Invite relevant Cabinet Member.  Committee requested to submit topics for discussion in advance of the meeting.	1 meeting required each year.
3.	Monitoring of previous Task Group recommendations.	Recommended good practice by CFGS.
4.	Cabinet Member attendance at Overview and Scrutiny meetings.	Recommended good practice by CFGS.

### Task Groups/Working Groups

<u>Group</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Responsible Officer</u>
Ethical and Sustainable Investment Policy Formal Task Group – requested by Council.	Requested by Council. Scoped. 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting to be arranged.	Paul Thompson
Planning Informal Task Group.	Scoped. 1 <sup>st</sup> meeting still to be arranged.  Officer comment:  Head of Planning and Place <b>Informal Planning Task Group</b> "The Planning and Place Service has implemented a number of initiatives during 2021/22. Assisted by the recruitment to some vacant posts, the Development Management Team has cleared the backlog of planning applications. New internal working practices were introduced in January 2022, and a revamped Pre-Application Advice Service, which involves the return of face-to-face site meetings with agents and developers, commenced in May 2022. Recruitment to the higher tier of planning posts (Principal Planner level) remains challenging throughout the North West and there are current vacancies at this level which are out to advertisement. However, planning	Mark Cassidy

	<p>application determination during 2021/22 included a number of major applications, including a positive decision for the Eden North Project, following 2.5 years of pre-planning work with the developer.</p> <p>Plan-making within the Service continues to go from strength to strength. The Climate Emergency Local Plan Review has been completed and the plan has been submitted to the Government's Planning Inspectorate. Preparation and evidence-gathering continues for the Lancaster South Area Action Plan; whilst a number of Parish Councils and local communities continue to be supported to advance Neighbourhood Development Plans for adoption in 2022 (including Caton with Littledale, Slyne with Hest, Carnforth and Aldcliffe with Stodday). All plan-making activity is reported to Members via the regular formal meetings of the Local Plan Review Group.</p> <p>Additionally, the recent additions to resources has also allowed the Service to be more active strategically in influencing sustainable transport at a regional and national level. Officers have taken a proactive role in lobbying the rail industry to ensure that Lancaster is a stopping station for HS2 rail services. The revised HS2 Strategic Outline Business Case (January 2022) includes 3 options, all of which now include Lancaster as a stopping station. Officers are also active in their work with County Council colleagues regarding major highway proposals, including the City Centre Movement and Public Realm Strategy.</p> <p>In conclusion, notwithstanding the current vacancies at Principal Planner level which are likely to be filled shortly, the Service has undergone considerable change and is now working at a more collaborative level with developers, partners and stakeholders throughout the district.</p>	
Property Portfolio Informal Task Group.	<p>Scoped. Has met – could not arrange a further meeting as the 2 leading officers left the Council.</p> <p>Update provided to the Committee on 9 February 2022. “Verbal update was given on the Property Portfolio Informal Task Group. It was noted that an Asset Management Strategy was currently being produced therefore it would be sensible to wait for the Strategy to be agreed before recommencing the Task Group's work.”</p>	Nick Lamb
Revitalising Key Centres Informal Task Group.	Scoped. Met once.	
Review of Recycling Working Group – requested by Council.	Requested by Council. Ongoing. Meetings have been held.	Will Griffith

## Councillor Suggestions

	<u>Issue</u>
1.	<p>Some ideas for scrutiny (from local residents)</p> <p>Public realm issues -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bin collections/fly tipping/recycling being blown around on bin days/litter in alleyways/weeds/pavements slippery and unusable when wet</li><li>- lack of response/action reporting issues</li></ul> <p>I can expand on this if needs be.</p> <p>Cllr Mills</p>
2.	<p>Hi</p> <p>As a Council we need to take a look at our derelict spaces and area with a view to creating opportunities for residents to start up Community Gardens and Allotments -enabling people who are unable to join a Allotment to be able to do their own Gardening and Vegetable growing.</p> <p>Regards Cllr David Whitaker</p>
3.	<p>It has to be noted that the Council are undertaking a very interesting project in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy in regard to addressing Fly Tipping but this is only a short lived project and the outcome of this project will not be established until The Autumn. As a Committee we need to explore what other Councils are doing across The UK in regard to preventing and eradicating Fly Tipping by exploring their strategies and looking closely at The successful ones.</p> <p>Regards Cllr David Whitaker</p>
4.	<p>Hi</p> <p>Camper Vans Parked on Morecambe Prom overnight. This is a major concern for residents at the moment so we need to work out a way to deal with this by finding The Campervans a more appropriate area to park with facilities.</p> <p>Cllr David Whitaker</p>
5.	<p>I would very much like to take this forward to the different scrutiny committees &amp; my suggestion for including committee reports at council will go to business committee tomorrow.</p>

I think the combined effect of these changes would increase all councillors' opportunities to be briefed & ask questions. It also ties in well with the OBR work this year.

Plus these are changes we can make now, & are within budget. We might even consider making the meetings more publicly prominent to the public & partners as part of Plan2030.

Cllr Lewis

Apologies for repeating myself on this, but I wanted to restate my proposal to strengthen scrutiny & increase visibility of the work of the council for all councillors.

My proposal is that one scrutiny committee looks at each of the directorates & one looks at progress on our four strategies.

I know these are big topics, but having spoken with Mark, there's a thought that we could run an all councillors briefing ahead of each scrutiny session, thus giving every councillor an opportunity to be briefed & then there would be more time at scrutiny for discussion both reflecting on progress & looking at future plans.

If we could then organise for the Chair's of these committees to present a report back to council, there would be an opportunity for feedback & recommendations.

Ideally we'd also like to link this process to the Outcomes Based Resourcing work - so councillors can better understand how much different things cost & have a chance to explore the relationship between costs & services.

Adrian & Richard, I hope you don't think I'm overstepping here, but I think this would put scrutiny right at the heart of key council processes & that is a good thing.

Cllr Lewis

#### **Item raised at Council - Cllr Lewis Annual Report – 27 April 2022**

- ...a more structured briefing and scrutiny process, that would see all councillors (and possibly other stakeholders) briefed and able to ask questions on the work of each directorate and the progress being made against the priorities and strategies of the Core Plan2030, and with the agreement of our scrutiny committees, a follow-up scrutiny meeting to further consider matters arising from the briefing.
- enshrining that chairs and vice-chairs of all scrutiny committees must be councillors whose groups are not part of the administration and if we can work out how to draft it, include independents on those committees.

Cllr Lewis



**Members of the Public**

**Issue**

Good morning,

I'm getting in touch as I saw the post you left on Facebook a few days ago calling for people to report issues they would like the Overview and Scrutiny Committee group to discuss.

I don't know whether this would be something Lancaster City Council or Lancashire County Council would deal with, but having more public seating at regular intervals would be welcomed by people with mobility issues.

I have a spinal cord injury and mobilise using crutches. I have to take frequent rest breaks when walking due to chronic pain, but there don't seem to be that many benches around Lancaster District, which means I often have to lean or sit on walls.

I'm not sure if the lack of seating is intended to deter people from loitering, but I'm sure both other people with mobility issues and older adults would appreciate additional seating around Lancaster.

Many thanks

Dear Sir / Madam

I write to you in regards to the maintenance of Council sheltered scheme properties, and the shared garden facilities provided. I live in Galgate on the Leachfield Close scheme. And when I first moved here I noticed how well the shared garden was maintained, and kept in pristine condition. The grass was always picked up and the edges where strimmed and left neat and tidy.

However over the last 2 years things have decidedly changed, as have the contractors. Who I believe have been given new orders from the "Powers that Be" that they are not to pick up the mown grass. So as you can imagine when the wind picks up slightly the grass is blown all over the paths, so when it rains the paths become slippy and lethal especially to the residents, who as you are probably aware, are elderly and disabled. Also it is an eye sore. Apparently this is not just isolated to this scheme, but to all the others.

Therefore I would appreciate it if someone would kindly look into rectifying this, and put it back to the way they used to be maintained.

Yours faithfully

Following the recent parking increases I am doing my best to avoid Lancaster despite it being my local town (I live in Claughton) which is a shame as I enjoy eating out and attending the Dukes.

I am convinced that the city council have no concept of how people live if they are outside the city boundaries there are not always buses when we need them. I went to Garstang last week where it is possible to park for 3 hours free of charge. It was apparent that this is a thriving community with many independent shops unlike Lancaster which unfortunately seems to be dying on it's feet.

My grandson and his girlfriend like to eat out and attend the cinema but the new parking charges for evenings spoil this for them (and don't help the businesses either)

Hello,

I live on a Park Home site with approx 30 homes on the site.

The site is for over 55 yr olds and the majority are older pensioners. We all buy our electricity from the site owner and so do not get a bill from the supplier.

As I understand things, it seems we will not be eligible for the £400 rebate on our electric bill.

I wonder if there is any provision for people in our situation? Or if the Government could be approached for some assistance?

There are many people around the country in the same position.

I have also written to Mr David Morris MP. I do hope there is something that can be done to help us

Regards

#### Facebook – comments

<u>Issue</u>
The rubbish collection in Freehold... x smaller trucks please as they get stuck up Park Road.
Services to children and young people and the use of repressive state powers against them In The form of exclusion zones which curtail there movement and civil liberties.
The lack of social and affordable housing.
How about investigating how the Bailrigg Garden Village and road expansion plan fits with climate change pledges?
Yes Kanteena allowed to get away with hell till 4 am this morning. Can't blame Rachel from environment health dept. Only people to blame is the owner of the above, who despite losing their.

Loos or lack of them along the prom.