

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Report of Chief Officer - Governance

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the Work Programme report.

**This report is public.**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Members note the updated Work Programme, as detailed in Appendix A.
- (2) That the Committee consider the suggestions set out below and agree what is to be included in the Committee's Work Programme.

#### 1. Introduction

The Committee is responsible for setting its own annual Work Programme within the terms of reference, as set out in the Council's Constitution.

Members are requested to consider and note the updated Work Programme attached at Appendix A that has been produced and consider the updates set out below.

#### 2. Updates

The Work Programme attached provides details of the dates agreed at the last meeting including the Annual Community Safety meeting to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

The Chair and Pre-Scrutiny Champion met with members of Senior Leadership Team. The meeting had been arranged to discuss the topics that the Committee wished to discuss further with Senior Leadership Team. Set out below are the suggestions that emerged from this meeting.

#### Ethical and Sustainable Investment Policy Formal Task Group

It was felt that this piece of work was out of the Committee's remit as well as being costly and should not be taken forward.

The Council takes a balanced approach to Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) ensuring that the principle of security, liquidity and yield is the core investment strategy. In an attempt to address Members concerns the Council seeks to place investment deposits predominantly with other local authorities. This is on the basis that the sector as a whole share common ESG principles. However, these deposits periods can range from 1 week to over a year, as a result pooled or money market funds are required to maintain liquidity. Arrangements exist with Lancashire County Council to make deposits within its "County Fund" but also with other money market funds. Recently we have opened a number of ESG money market funds to meet these principles but also provide additional counterparty head room to mitigate the overall security risk.

All the main agencies are now incorporating ESG risks alongside more traditional financial risk metrics when assessing counterparties. As this is already being done by the mainstream rating agencies the Council will use this as the basis for assessment until we are advised otherwise by our treasury consultants.

#### Eden Project Morecambe - Impact on rented properties and transport plans

It was reported that the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Housing was establishing a Cabinet Task Force which would look at such issues therefore for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider this would be duplication. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be represented on this Group.

The Committee could also request a progress report from the Eden Board that was being set up later in the municipal year.

#### Property Portfolio Informal Task Group

Since the original scoping of this Task Group in 2019, much of the work that had been highlighted in the scope had been undertaken during the Outcome Based Resourcing review of property assets in the past year.

It was suggested that the Task Group be stood down and that an update report be provided in the new year. A new Property Group structure will then be in place of which an overview could also be provided.

#### Annual Health Care meeting

It was suggested that this should be removed from the Work Programme but perhaps an update on the current model of the Health Care System could be provided.

<b>RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK</b>
There are no direct implications as a result of this report.
<b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT (including Health &amp; Safety, Equality &amp; Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)</b>
There are no direct implications as a result of this report.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>
The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has overall responsibility for the performance of all Overview and Scrutiny functions (under the Local Government Act 2000) on behalf of the Council and ensuring its effectiveness.

Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 9 (a) advises that 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.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this report. Any further reports on specific issues contained within the Work Programme will require further consideration of the financial implications.

#### **OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS, such as Human Resources; Information Services; Property; Open Spaces:**

None.

#### **SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The S151 officer has been consulted and 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:** Jenny Kay  
**Telephone:** 01524 582065  
**E-mail:** [jkay@lancaster.gov.uk](mailto:jkay@lancaster.gov.uk)