

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Work Programme Report

14th June 2023

Report of Chief Officer - Governance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with an updated on the Work Programme for 2023/24.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Members consider the report.
- (2) That it be noted that at the next meeting the Committee will be requested to consider what should be included and prioritised in the 2023/24 Work Programme.
 1. Introduction
 - 1.1 The Committee is requested to note progress regarding its Work Programme for 2023/24.
 2. Details
 - 2.1 Rule 9 of the Constitution, set out below, advises of the process to be undertaken to consider and prioritise its Work Programme.

Rule 9 - Work Programme

- (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 this Constitution.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall write to all Councillors and the Chief Executive 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 Leadership 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.

(b) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee shall meet in its capacity as crime and disorder committee no less than once in every twelve month period.

2.2 In accordance with the Constitution items have been requested and a meeting to consider these will be arranged prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

2.3 Appended to this report are the suggestions received so far.

3. **Conclusion**

3.1 The Committee will be asked to consider the preliminary prioritisation of the Work Programme at the next meeting of the Committee.

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.

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Appendix 1

As I am new to Lancaster City Council I would like to know the aspirations and plans of new portfolio holders.

From a Ward perspective I am particularly concerned at the number of council houses littered with residents rubbish/litter and unkempt hedges etc. I would like to know the policy and practice for putting this right and what budget is allowed and if anything is allocated to the tenant.

I would also be keen to see how Frontierland is progressing and what is currently being proposed and actioned

Just to help me I had a look at last year's O&S meetings to gain insight of the work of O&S.

In the O&S terms of reference "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." I am keen to get a public perspective on the work of the Council. I feel it is important the Committee should continue looking at the Corporate Plan priorities in a structured way, with a meeting being arranged for each priority. "To add value by considering to what extent the Council has delivered on the outcomes. Relevant officers and partners to be invited to attend meetings."

There are also scrutiny items from 2022/23 that have not been actioned or put "on hold".

- O&S were due to consider a report from the Ethical and Sustainable Investment Policy Task Group, but this was put on hold until after the May 2023 elections.
- The "Town centres to be re-imagined – incorporating vacant shops and markets. (Revitalising Key Centres Informal Task Group.)" was also put "on hold."
- A Property Portfolio Informal Task Group was scoped but never met. I am interested in the commercial property investments the Council hold and how these properties are managed by the Council, and how they perform including what financial returns are received from these investments.

In addition, we need to be able to scrutinise the Outcomes Based Resourcing work - so councillors can better understand how much different things cost and have a chance to explore the relationship between services and their costs.

Although there is a summary of the O&S Committee Work Programme it does not summarise the outcomes, and I feel the outcomes should also be summarised in that document for ease of reference as to the impact of the scrutiny programme. Do we need to scrutinise scrutiny?

At a community level it would be good to look at:

Air Quality Management Areas – As a ward councillor for Carnforth I have an interest in the actions taken by the City Council and other partners in the air quality management areas that have been declared by the City Council in particular the Carnforth AQMA that was declared in 2007. There are also AQMAs for Galgate and Lancaster. It would be good to have an update on the coordinated actions in Lancaster, Carnforth and Galgate air quality management areas, the any district district-wide review and assessment of air quality, including the measuring and monitoring air pollution level across the district.

Affordable Housing and Housing Need - I am also particularly interested promoting housing that meets our local housing needs, and it would be good to have an update on how the City Council seeks to ensure that a range of housing is being supported through its policies, and strategies, and more importantly delivered, to meet local housing needs. I am also interested in how our housing policies and strategies help develop a broad-based community. Including homes with the flexibility to meet changing needs, and homes that are affordable (including social housing).