

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Scrutiny & Overview Committee 9 October 2021
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Scrutiny & Overview Committee Work Programme 2021-22
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Simon Trevaskis – Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer – Scrutiny
<b>PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:</b>	Councillor Sean Fitzsimons – Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee
<b>PUBLIC/EXEMPT:</b>	Public

<b>ORIGIN OF ITEM:</b>	The Scrutiny & Overview Committee receives an update on its work programme at each of its meeting
<b>BRIEF FOR THE COMMITTEE:</b>	The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Note the current position of its Work Programme for 2021-22,</li> <li>2. To consider whether there are any other items that should be added to the work programme.</li> </ol>

## 1. SCRUTINY & OVERVIEW COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021-22

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to set out the work programme for 2021 – 2022 for the Scrutiny & Overview Committee. A copy of the work programme as it currently stands can be found at Appendix A to this report.
- 1.2. Although the work programme has been populated as far as possible at this stage, it is recognised that given the challenges facing the Council, the work programme needs to remain flexible enough to respond to emerging priorities during the year.
- 1.3. At its meeting on 15 June 2021, the Committee agreed that the work programme process will be overseen by a Reference Group of scrutiny members who will meet on a monthly basis to review all available data in order to identify items that should be prioritised for inclusion in the work programme for both the Committee and its three Sub-Committees (Children & Young People, Health & Social Care and Streets, Environment & Homes).
- 1.4. The Committee also agreed a number of workstream priorities for the year ahead for itself and the three sub-committees. For the Scrutiny & Overview Committee there are two main priorities, which are:-
  - W1: Corporate recovery, including corporate oversight by exception.
  - W 2: Understanding and acting on risks. To initially focus substantively on BBB and the council's reserves position
- 1.5. Although the Reference Group will be responsible for identifying emerging issues for scrutiny, the Scrutiny & Overview Committee will still have oversight of its work programme and this report will be presented at each Committee

meeting to provide an update on the latest position of the work programme and allow for consideration to be given to any additions or amendments.

- 1.6. It is recognised that given the challenges facing the Council, it will not be possible for scrutiny to accomplish everything it needs to within the committee setting. As such it is likely that informal briefings and visits will need to be arranged during the year, to ensure that the Committee is as informed as possible when scrutinising an item at one of its meetings. For transparency, this report will also confirm any briefings or visits undertaken by the Committee.
- 1.7. Since the last meeting held on 7 September 2021, the item on the Digital Strategy has been deferred from 19 October to the meeting scheduled for 7 December. This was to allow additional work aligning the strategy with the Medium Term Financial Strategy to be incorporated in the report to Committee.
- 1.8. In preparation for its consideration of the Annual Complaints report elsewhere on this agenda, the Committee has held a briefing with the complaints team to gain a greater understanding of the complaints handling process.
- 1.9. As part of the Scrutiny Improvement Programme, a series of training sessions have been arranged for Members starting with a session on 12 October providing an introduction to scrutiny. This will be followed by two sessions for the members of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee in late October/early November to prepare for scrutinising the Council's budget.
- 1.10. The exact timings for the budget scrutiny process are being finalised and will likely result in an amended work programme over the next few months. Any amendment to meetings dates of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee will be confirmed as soon as possible via the Council's website.

## **2. Conclusions**

- 2.1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to note the current position of its Work Programme for 2021-22 set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2. The Committee is asked to consider whether there are any other items that should be added to its work programme.

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Simon Trevaskis – Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer - Scrutiny

## **APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT**

Appendix A – Scrutiny & Overview Committee Work Programme