

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
DATE OF DECISION	22 April 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
LEAD OFFICER:	Simon Trevaskis Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer - Scrutiny	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Rowenna Davis - Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	In accordance with paragraph 6.7 (vi) of Part 4E - Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules, in the Council's Constitution, the Committee should receive an update on the work programme at each meeting.	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A	

1. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

- 1.1. This report sets out for the Scrutiny & Overview Committee to note the completed work programmes for the Committee and its Sub-Committees in 2023-2024.
- 1.2. When the Scrutiny & Overview Committee agreed the provisional work programme in July 2023, the following principles were agreed as the basis for the work programme:-
 1. **The Public's Money.** Scrutiny wants reassurance that taxpayers' money is put to best use. At a time when the Council is making cuts to balance the books, it has no money to waste. In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, every pound of public money should be valued. Scrutiny will aim to look at the impact of any financial decisions on the public and the Council's finances, including knock-on effects. We will aim to research best practice and to provide suggestions as well as criticism.
 2. **The Public's Services.** Scrutiny wants reassurance that services are improving. This is about leadership, culture and organisation as much as it is about budgets. We will seek reassurance that even in difficult financial circumstances, we are still meeting our duty of care to the most vulnerable. Scrutiny will listen and learn from

the public's experiences of service performance to guide its work on Croydon's transformation.

3. **The Public's Voice.** Scrutiny wants to make sure that the Council is transparent, open and engaging with the people it exists to serve. Scrutiny will monitor the planned improvements in governance for Croydon's local democracy, as well as inviting public voices into the Scrutiny process itself. The Mayor was elected on a mandate to "listen to Croydon" and Scrutiny will hold the executive to account for this pledge.

- 1.3. It is proposed that these principles are used again to form the development of the 2024-25 work programme, which will be presented to the Committee at its meeting on 4 June 2024 for agreement.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to: -

1. Note the work completed by the Committee and its Sub-Committee over the course of 2023-24.
2. Agree the principles that will be used to underpin the development of the 2024-2025 Work Programme.
3. Consider whether there are any items that should be considered for the 2024-25 work programme.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Setting a work programme to guide Scrutiny throughout the year is a requirement in the Council's Constitution and considered to be best practice. Adjustments can be made to the work programme throughout the year and are agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs, in line with the arrangements in the Constitution, and an update provided at each Committee meeting.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None. It is a requirement in the Council's Constitution for the Scrutiny & Overview Committee to have a clearly defined work programme for itself and its sub-committees at the start of each municipal year.

5 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Each of the sub-committee's has had the opportunity to review their respective work programmes at each meeting. Scrutiny Chairs will also meet regularly with officers to review the programme.

6. APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24

