

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
DATE OF DECISION	8 July 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Scrutiny Work Programme 2024-25	
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 1.2 (vi) of Part 4E - Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules, in the Council's Constitution, the Committee should agree an initial scrutiny work programme at its first full meeting after the Annual Council meeting.	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A	

1. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024-25

- 1.1. This report sets out for the agreement of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee the work programmes of the Committee and its Sub-Committees.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to: -
1. Agree the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024-25 (as set out in Appendix 1),
 2. Consider whether there are any other items that should be provisionally added to the work programme as a result of the discussions held during the meeting.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Agreeing 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. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024-25

- 4.1. At the last meeting of the previous municipal year on 22 April 2024, the Committee agreed that the Council's ongoing journey towards financial sustainability and delivery of the Transformation Plan would be key areas of focus in 2024-25. It was also agreed that the following principles would continue to be used 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.
- 4.2. The provisional work programme for the Scrutiny & Overview Committee is set out in Appendix 1 for agreement. The development of this work programme has been informed through engagement of the Scrutiny Chairs & Vice Chairs with various stakeholders, including the Executive Mayor, the Corporate Management Team, the Improvement & Assurance Panel and the Independent Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.
- 4.3. In the development of the work programme, the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs have taken care to ensure that it aligns with the Executive Mayor's Business Plan and that the decisions on what to include has been informed by performance and risk. To this end the following documents have been used to inform the work programme: -
- Cabinet – 15 May 2024: Item 7 - Mayor's Business Plan 2022-2026 Performance Report
 - Cabinet – 15 May 2024: Item 9 – Adult Social Care & Health Peer Challenge Findings & Next Steps

- Audit & Governance Committee Work Plan 2024-25
- Corporate Risk Register – Red Risks
- Period 10 Financial Performance Report
- Cabinet Forward Plan
- IAP Exit Strategy
- Cabinet – 27 March 2024: Future Croydon – The Transformation Plan 2024 – 2029
- Cabinet – 27 March 2024: Housing Transformation Update

- 4.4. A meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs was convened on 13 May to review the above documents and map out the provisional work programme. The Scrutiny Chairs held a meeting with the Corporate Management Team on 15 May to review the work programme and to discuss other areas they might wish to consider including.
- 4.5. Set out in Appendix 1 is the final draft of the work programme for 2024-25 for the agreement of the Committee.
- 4.6. If needed, 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.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Each of the sub-committee's has had the opportunity to feed into their respective work programmes for the year ahead. Scrutiny Chairs have also met with officers to also gather their feedback on the programme.

7 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Draft Scrutiny Work Programme 2024-25