

REPORT TO:	Scrutiny & Overview Committee 7 December 2021
SUBJECT:	Scrutiny & Overview Committee Work Programme 2021-22
LEAD OFFICER:	Simon Trevaskis – Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer – Scrutiny
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Councillor Sean Fitzsimons – Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee
PUBLIC/EXEMPT:	Public

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

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, 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 19 October 2021 the Committee has had two training sessions with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny to prepare for the Budget Scrutiny Process. These were held on 20 October and 22 November 2021.
- 1.8. On 23 November the Committee also received a briefing from officers on the budget setting process in preparation for Budget Scrutiny. This session provided the Committee with an overview of the key principles underlying the Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy, savings targets and the approach taken to identifying proposals.

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.

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APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Appendix A – Scrutiny & Overview Committee Work Programme