



# Doncaster Council

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25<sup>th</sup> June, 2020

**To the Chair and Members of the  
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN June 2020**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision</b>
The Mayor	All	None

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. This report provides an update of how Overview and Scrutiny has operated during the Covid-19 pandemic and how it intends to move forward during the Civic Year 2020/21.

## **EXEMPT REPORT**

2. This report is not exempt.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

3. The Committee is asked to:
  - a) Endorse the Overview and Scrutiny arrangements that have operated since April 2020.
  - b) Agree the proposals for future Overview and Scrutiny arrangements, and the development of the 2020/21 work programme.
  - c) Consider the Council's Forward Plan of key decisions attached at Appendix A.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

4. Robust Overview and Scrutiny arrangements ensures Councillors are responding to important issues for citizens and supporting the Council's governance arrangements.

## **BACKGROUND**

5. Overview and Scrutiny undertakes a number of important roles including:
  - Reviewing decisions made by the Executive of the Council;
  - Policy development and review;
  - Monitoring performance (both service indicators and financial); and
  - Considering issues of wider public concern.
6. During May and June, Overview and Scrutiny Councillors would usually be developing work programmes for the forthcoming year. However due to the on-going Covid-19 response this has not proved possible as , as many staff have moved to different roles to ensure delivery of essential services work-planning arrangements have been rescheduled and interim arrangements put in place.
7. Overview and Scrutiny has continued to partially operate during this period by holding a number of remote briefing meetings once a fortnight using Microsoft Teams, to consider important issues relevant to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has ensured Overview and Scrutiny can continue to provide transparency and accountability and engage non-Executive Councillors during the current emergency. As the Council's arrangements, for holding virtual meetings has developed it is now time for Overview and Scrutiny to formalise its meetings and develop a broader programme for the forthcoming year. Detailed below is a summary of the briefings held by OSMC during May and June.
  - Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020 - How the Local Authority is identifying and responding to the needs of vulnerable people. (Director of Adults, Health and Well-Being);
  - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – Financial pressures, impacts, and use of additional resources e.g. grant funding. (Director of Corporate Resources);
  - Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 - update on street scene services, cleaner and greener and Household Waste Centres (Peter Dale, Director Regeneration and Environment);

### **Next Steps**

8. As Overview and Scrutiny now looks to step up its formal meeting arrangements it is proposed that the following issues originally identified for consideration by OSMC, now be considered by the relevant Panel. This will ensure wider engagement of Overview and Scrutiny Members during the Covid emergency.
  - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – Schools Children and Young People - home schooling during the Covid-19 pandemic, approach undertaken, support and advice available and potential impact on educational outcomes (Riana Nelson, Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills);
  - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 – Regeneration and Housing - impact on the delivery of major projects during the Covid-19 pandemic (Peter Dale, Director Regeneration and Environment) –; and

- Thursday 6th August 2020 – Health Adult and Social Care Panel- impact of Covid-19 pandemic on Mental Health (Director of Public Health).

### Developing The Overview & Scrutiny Work Plan 2020/21

9. It is proposed that further work be undertaken to map out an Overview and Scrutiny work programme during the summer, in consultation with Members and officers. The work programme will take account of resources available to support Overview and Scrutiny Members and will include a focus on supporting the Council as it responds to the pandemic. The work programme will be developed to include issues for consideration by OSMC and the four Panels.

### **Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

10. Attached at Appendix A is the Council's Forward Plan of key decisions for consideration by the Committee.

### **OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS**

11. There are no specific options to consider within this report as it provides an opportunity for the Committee to agree its approach for developing its 2020/21 work programme

### **IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES**

- 12.

	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Implications</b>
	<p><b>Doncaster Working:</b> Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better access to good fulfilling work</li> <li>• Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish</li> <li>• Inward Investment</li> </ul>	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and policy development through robust recommendations, monitoring performance of the Council and external partners, services and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of the Borough.</p>
	<p><b>Doncaster Living:</b> Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster</li> <li>• More people can live in a good quality, affordable home</li> <li>• Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport</li> <li>• Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean</li> <li>• Building on our cultural, artistic and</li> </ul>	

	sporting heritage	
	<p><b>Doncaster Learning:</b> Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school</li> <li>• Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better</li> <li>• Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Doncaster Caring:</b> Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children have the best start in life</li> <li>• Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust</li> <li>• Older people can live well and independently in their own homes.</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Connected Council:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A modern, efficient and flexible workforce</li> <li>• Modern, accessible customer interactions</li> <li>• Operating within our resources and delivering value for money</li> <li>• A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents</li> <li>• Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths</li> <li>• Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance</li> </ul>	

## RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

13. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function particularly as the lockdown eases following the Covid-19 pandemic, it is important that the work plan is manageable and that it accurately reflects the broad range of issues within its remit. Failure to achieve this can reduce the overall impact of the function. National research has identified that over ambitious work plans that include too many items are a common cause of frustration for Scrutiny Members as they fail to achieve any outcomes. Once developed and agreed, the work plan will continue to be reviewed at each ordinary meeting and officers will advise on the capacity available to undertake any additional work. This provides an opportunity to ensure work plans can be

regularly monitored and reviewed.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (SRF 16/06/20)**

14. The Council's Constitution states that subject to matters being referred to it by the Full Council, or the Executive and any timetables laid down by those bodies, Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (and its Panels) will determine its own Work Programme (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule Page 84 6a). Specific legal implications and advice will be provided as required on matters brought to the Committee and Panels.

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, changes in the law have enabled Council meetings to be held using remote means.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (PH 15/06/20)**

15. There are no specific financial implications attached to this report.

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES (CR 16/06/20)**

16. There are no specific HR implications related to the contents of this report. There may be HR implications relating to specific elements on the work plan but these will be highlighted in the relevant reports at the appropriate time.

#### **TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (AM 15/06/20)**

17. There are no specific technology implications in relation to this report

#### **HEALTH IMPLICATIONS (15/06/20 RS)**

18. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee can perform a key role in the council's adoption of a health in all policies approach. All areas of the Overview and Scrutiny work plan can impact on health and it is important that the health implications of each item are considered separately given that 20% of what contributes to health is from clinical care, 30% from healthy behaviours, 40% from socio-economic factors and 10% from the built environment.

#### **EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS (CR 02/06/20)**

19. This report provides an overview of the work programme and there are no significant equality implications associated with the report. Within its programme of work Overview and Scrutiny gives due consideration to the extent to which the Council has complied with its Public Equality Duty and given due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different communities.

#### **CONSULTATION**

20. Consultation has been undertaken with OSMC Members on progressing the Overview and Scrutiny work programme.

#### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

21. Agenda, guidance and draft work plan 2020.

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

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