



Doncaster Council

3rd September 2020

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

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN 2020/21

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
The Mayor	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Committee is asked to agree an overview and scrutiny work programme for 2020/21.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The Committee is asked to:
 - Consider the draft 2020/2021 Overview and Scrutiny work programme for approval - draft attached in Appendix A.
 - Consider the Council's Forward Plan of key decisions attached at Appendix B; and

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. Regular review of the Overview and Scrutiny work plan enables the Committee to ensure it remains relevant and is responding to important issues for citizens and the borough. The work plan update helps support openness, transparency and accountability as it summarises outcomes from overview and scrutiny activities. Citizens are able to contribute to the work of overview and scrutiny by attending meetings or contributing to reviews.

BACKGROUND

5. Overview and Scrutiny has a number of key roles, which focus on:
 - 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. Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) manages the work programmes for itself and the standing Panels. In addition the Health and Adult Social Care Panel has some autonomy to incorporate additional items as it has statutory responsibilities relating to Health Scrutiny.
7. The Panels endeavor to deliver a more outcome focused Scrutiny function concentrating on delivering evidence based recommendations whilst OSMC focus on effective Scrutiny and performance monitoring and co-ordination of the wider Overview and Scrutiny activities.
8. The statutory responsibilities that Overview and Scrutiny must undertake include an annual review of the Community Safety Partnership, consultation on budget and policy framework issues and health scrutiny issues.

Issues to consider

9. OSMC and the standing Panels held work planning sessions during July and August 2020 with a view to identifying a small number of topics for consideration for the remainder of the municipal year. A copy of the draft work plan is attached at Appendix A, which the Committee is asked to approve, ensuring that the issues identified are relevant, no significant issues are omitted and the capacity and resources are available to deliver the programme of work.
10. In agreeing it's future work programme, the Committee will need to ensure it focuses on topics that add value to the delivery of services, benefit and help deliver the Borough's ambitions and improve decision making.
11. Once agreed, the Committee will also need to ensure that it manages and co-ordinates the work of the Panels to ensure there is an even balance across the Scrutiny function, key issues are being considered and Chairs receive the advice and support to deliver their work plans. Scrutiny Chairs are asked to regularly report back to the Committee on the progress of their reviews.

Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions

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

Monitoring the Work Programme

13. An updated version of the work plan will be regularly presented to OSMC and the Panels for their consideration. The work of OSMC and the Panels will be reported annually to full Council and the progress of the standing Panels will

be reported to OSMC where appropriate and to the Chairs and Vice Chairs Liaison Group.

Links with Team Doncaster

14. The Committee and Panels are asked to continue maintaining an overview and understanding of partnership activities. As the delivery of Borough priorities relies on a partnership approach, the Panels are requested to make the necessary arrangements to secure links with relevant partnership bodies. This could include regular updates from the partnership body or Council representative. Information on Team Doncaster is also accessible through Twitter and the Team Doncaster website <http://www.teamdoncaster.org.uk>. It is suggested that a flexible approach to working with the partnership will enable the identification of future work plan issues and help ensure Members gain a greater awareness of partnership activity.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS

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

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

16.

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: 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"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<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>Doncaster Living: 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"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that</p>	

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

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

17. To maximise the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function 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. 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 15/08/20]

18. 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 6a). Specific legal implications and advice will be provided as required on matters brought to the Committee and Panels.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

19. No implications were sought for this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES

20. No implications were sought for this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

21. No implications were sought for this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

22. No implications were sought for this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS (CR 14.08.20)

23. This report provides an overview on 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

24. During July and August 2020, OSMC and the standing Panels held work planning sessions to identify issues for consideration during 2020/21.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

25. Agenda, guidance and draft work plan produced following Overview and Scrutiny work planning events held during July and August 2020.

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