

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 10 June 2021

10:00

Council Chamber, County Buildings, Stafford

NB. The meeting will be webcast live which can be viewed here -
<https://staffordshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

John Tradewell
Director of Corporate Services
2 June 2021

A G E N D A

PART ONE

1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes of the meetings held on 21 January and 5 February 2021** (Pages 1 - 10)
4. **SEND Working Group - Final Report** (Pages 11 - 16)
5. **Work Programme Planning 2021/22** (Pages 17 - 38)
6. **Exclusion of the Public**

The Chairman to move:-

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of Local Government Act 1972 indicated below”.

PART TWO

(All reports in this section are exempt)

Membership	
Charlotte Atkins	Bernard Peters
Tina Clements	James Salisbury
Mike Davies	Bob Spencer
Colin Greatorex (Chairman)	Thompson

Gill Heath (Vice-Chairman
(Scrutiny))
Jeremy Oates
Jeremy Pert

Conor Wileman (Vice-Chairman
(Overview))
Mike Worthington

Note for Members of the Press and Public

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Recording (including by the use of social media) by the Press and Public is permitted from the public seating area provided it does not, in the opinion of the chairman, disrupt the meeting.

Scrutiny and Support Manager: Nicholas Pountney Tel: (01785) 276153

Minutes of the Corporate Review Committee Meeting held on 21 January 2021

Present: Colin Greatorex (Chairman)

Attendance

Charlotte Atkins	Jeremy Pert
Mike Davies	Bernard Peters
Helen Fisher	Conor Wileman (Vice-Chairman)
Jeremy Oates	Susan Woodward
Ian Parry	

Also in attendance:

Apologies: John Francis

PART ONE

27. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made at the meeting.

28. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17 November 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. Staffordshire COVID-19 Residents Survey - Key Findings

The Leader of the Council, provided a report and presentation relating to the Covid-19 Residents Survey.

It was explained that the survey would inform the Councils recovery and business planning. The survey had closed in September 2020 and received the highest survey response for many years, this was attributed to the organisation and partners efforts in promoting the survey.

The main points arising from the 3,921 responses received from residents in the survey relating to their experience of Covid-19 were outlined:

- 63% negative responses – this was higher for those furloughed and those with a disability or limiting illness. Negative impact included reduced social interaction, not seeing family and friends and impact on wellbeing.
- 12% positive responses - this included 53% of residents saving money; many enjoyed spending time outdoors, spending time with friends and family and 32% explored their local area

- Behaviour changes - Over 50% of respondents had increased their digital use, 59% had carried out online shopping and 58% used online chat and social interaction.
- 52% of respondents had provided help and support to others and were willing to do so in the future.
- 29% had received support during the pandemic, mainly receiving essential supplies. 80% of support was from family and friends. The majority receiving support were over 65 year olds and many were shielding.
- Respondents key concerns in next 3-6 months were about the economy – particularly about business survival, jobs and employment, which were key to recovery.
- Respondents were concerned about the environment, in particular feeling safe, returning to public spaces and to normal life
- 40% mentioned the economy as the biggest challenge but also an opportunity to develop post lockdown.
- Communities – respondents were positive about building on community action, a key element of recovery, and to strengthen and empower communities.

The Leader of the Council highlighted the need to respond to the findings outlined in the report. The Committee discussed the survey findings and the following matters and comments were highlighted by members:

- Pathways into support for people - It was recognised that Covid-19 had affected many different people who would not have otherwise required support. Different people were emerging from Covid-19 presenting with a range of different needs, particularly around alcohol.
- Unmet needs - people cannot navigate our systems
- Survey results had been made available - District information was available and had been shared with District Councils. Across all districts the responses were very similar. Members requested the information be sent to all councillors across the County.
- You said we did - Communication with residents included providing responses to individual issues raised and the response about what the Council was putting in place.
- The Under 35 Action plans age related coming out of this – comprehensive programme of work on economic development and employment to put support in place.
- How we communicate with different languages and cultures in the area. In terms of the survey tapped into existing mechanisms in communities in place volunteering, alternative translation formats , BAME communities and other.
- Disproportionate impact on people with disabilities was of concern, public health was looking at disability, mental health and addiction to have a more focussed approach. The impact more on people with disabilities and carers had been greater in second lockdown, parents and carers were worn out, mental health and wellbeing issues had impacted elderly and child carers.
- New and different needs – home schooling pressure on child and parents and pressures on schools. The situation and guidance had changed quickly and was different now to when the survey was completed. The pressures on individual

households had changed, first lockdown was relatively enjoyable, the second time was more stressful for many who had to balance work with home schooling.

- There were concerns raised about some parents/carers drinking more. It was recognised that each family had its way of coping with lockdown whether drinking or getting outside more. The benefits of getting outdoors and the subsequent health outcomes could be factored into the County Councils environment work and include Health in all policies agenda – working closely to ensure parks and open spaces meet the needs of all areas.
- Population Health work Integrated Care System – can be explored through H&C scrutiny cttee.
- Volunteer fatigue was of concern there was more volunteer capacity in the first lockdown, in the second lockdown it did seemed to be reduced

The Committee highlighted the need to communicate with the audience moving forward, to chart how people feel in 6-12 months and to make sure people know about support available to them.

RESOLVED: That the comments of the Corporate Review Select Committee be referred to the Cabinet Member.

30. Digital Inclusion

The Cabinet Member provided a report and action plan relating to the Digital Strategy.

The Cabinet Member highlighted that since March last year a great amount of work had been undertaken to provide digital support internally and externally to communities. The Council adapted the way it worked and provided services, the need to reshape the digital programme. The action plan appended to the report identifies the breadth and depth of the actions required to make the change and he emphasised the need to continue working with community groups and voluntary partners, as well as considering good practice from other Councils. He thanked officers for the hard work moving at pace to address the issue and indicated the Council was in a good place to take forward the digital inclusion action plan.

Members were informed that there was a Cabinet paper in February relating to the Digital strategy and Digital programme – digital inclusion was a large part of the documents to Cabinet. Members views were welcomed on how we develop this plan and to consider and comment on the work being undertaken to tackle digital exclusion in Staffordshire.

Members raised concerns relating to digital exclusion, highlighting affordability, low income, families access to the internet and school children access to learning on line. Concern that low income families would still have decisions to make on what to spend money on food or internet we need to support families, vulnerable children and disadvantaged residents and members want to ensure that an increase in the digital divide was avoided and to consider the issues of disadvantage exposed by Covid over the last year. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the concerns raised and indicated that there was a need to work with partners including the Government. The need for

more equipment, including second hand equipment and equipment for schools, and access points were important. The Council need to re-start work with Citizens on line and good things foundation, there was also work in early stages towards Digital Good neighbours scheme – sharing wiFi. The voluntary sector were identifying where we can support - Staffs connect, Do it Staffordshire and Community help points.

The need to work with partners, government and schools to address the issue of inequality exposed by Covid-19, IT access being one of them was expressed. It was highlighted that good access to internet should be treated as the 4th utility and that pressure should be put upon govt and providers to make sure there are reduced tariffs for those people who are on low income and that every child has access both internet and a device moving forward.

The ongoing work was reported as follows:

- Support to schools, to offer devices to ensure that all young people have access that schools can address access individually or for families.
- Support families to access virtual family hubs to access all services required of them.
- Lobbying larger organisations to lift the cap and limitations to accessing 4G networks.

The following matters were highlighted through member questions, comments and responses of the Cabinet Member were noted:

Affordability – there was concern that some families in most need would not be able to afford access to the internet or a device, even with a reduced tariff. The Cabinet Member referred to his earlier response relating to low income families and advised that 1566 digital devices had been provided by government, schools and trusts have requested further devices since September 2020.

Network coverage - was considered critical and concerns were raised about the lack of network coverage, with 16,000 premises within the County without access. it was considered that the action plan must focus on these households who are working from home and accessing schoolwork and doctors appointments and that the digital infrastructure was as important as physical infrastructure.

Sense of pace -The Cabinet Member reassured members that the sense of pace was there and advised that the Council had to move with pace at the start of the pandemic, work was ongoing to progress the action plan and reviewed regularly by a task and finish group – the Digital working group.

Milestones - Members indicated that the action plan seemed to miss what the benefit of the plan was and how much progress had actually been made. It was acknowledged that the benefits and progress detail in the plan needed more work, it was work in progress and a more detailed plan would be brought back to Committee.

Alternative routes and refusal to use digital means - Some residents did not want or were unable to use online services. The options available for these residents was questioned. It was highlighted that the lockdown had complicated residents accessing services which were not operating in normal way, because the frontline offices was not available to them and libraries had to close. The Cabinet Member indicated that

alternative access for residents could be through voluntary groups working with Parish Councils that have access to website and can connect to services and information. He indicated that he was working with one parish to open up dialogue and develop better connections with the Council to engaging with residents and to spread the ability for residents to connect, one scheme was underway – the ‘Hello Lamppost Scheme’.

Members recorded their appreciation to officers who have been going the extra mile to help residents who were finding it difficult to access services such as blue badge and disabled parking facilities.

Service Level Agreement (SLA)– It was felt that the level of engagement with residents and the timescales to respond to public enquiries was important. An SLA with residents would ensure that services will hit targets and respond to people within agreed timelines which would build confidence in online services. The Cabinet Member indicated an SLA agreement should be in place and agreed to check that this was the case.

It was advised that the Digital strategy would be considered by Cabinet in February, highlighting the this was Digital first , not digital only strategy. The Council will move forward with the digital offer a number of years. He advised that where telephones had been turned off, in the main people were ok with it and a number of alternative options were in place, they could go to libraries for support. In current situation, with libraries closed, the Council was looking at what could be done in the short term, residents have reached out to families and friends for support and there were a variety of support networks available to residents. WE need to promote the various support networks outside the CC.

The feedback from members today would inform the action plan and online offer.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the report and detail relating to the Digital Strategy be received and noted.

31. Scrutiny of the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-2026

The Committee considered the draft report which provided an overview of the Councils MTFs working group which once agreed would be presented to Cabinet 27th January - the report and recommendations. An executive response to recommendations will be also be provided.

The Working Group presented a different set of questions this time and external speakers provided support and an external perspective and best practice form other Local authorities as different approaches taken elsewhere. Positive consensus on the recommendations and a comprehensive document.

They also welcomed further contributions from external witnesses in the future.

RESOLVED:

1. The report was agreed.
2. That the report be referred to Cabinet for consideration

32. Work Programme

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme was agreed.

Chairman

Minutes of the Corporate Review Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2021

Present: Colin Greatorex (Chairman)

Attendance

Charlotte Atkins	Bernard Peters
Mike Davies	Natasha Pullen
Helen Fisher	Stephen Sweeney
John Francis	Conor Wileman (Vice-Chairman)
Ian Parry	Susan Woodward
Jeremy Pert	

Also in attendance:

Apologies:

PART ONE

33. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Wileman in the Chair.

Councillor Woodward declared an interest in relation to her position as co-chair of Chasewater Friends an organisation that supports the work at Chasewater.

Councillor Francis declared a non-pecuniary interest as he lives on Cannock Chase, is a member of the Stafford Agricultural Society and friends with Farmer who farms on the Chase.

Councillor Fisher declared an interest as co-Chair of Chasewater Friends

34. Consideration of the Call In of the Cabinet Decision - Protecting Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation for Future Generations

Councillor C Atkins as the Lead Member for the Call In rehearsed with the Committee her reasons for the Call In and the passion expressed within the community in relation to this issue, in particular the correspondence received by many Members. Also that many Members of the public had felt they had not been engaged with and the Member raised the issue of a number of groups who it was felt would be disenfranchised. The cutbacks within the Rangers Service were also highlighted. It was felt that harnessing the enthusiasm of the local residents such be support to preserve the area for future generations

The reasons for the Call in were detailed as

The Cabinet approach appears piecemeal and lacked evidence of a long term plan for the protection and conservation of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation. The plans did not fully address the needs of people living with a range of disabilities.

Despite the County Council's focus on volunteering both before and during the pandemic, the plans did not incorporate a role for volunteers in the protection and conservation of the site.

No evidence had been presented to demonstrate that closing car parks and directing people into larger car parks would change the behaviour which is impacting adversely on the SAC. Nor has the environmental impact of expanding some car parks been assessed.

The lack of an ecological assessment of some areas over the last five to ten years raised concerns about the evidence base for these plans.

Councillor Greateorex in the Chair

Councillor Ian Parry detailed the scrutiny undertaken by the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee who had received detailed reports on two occasions and made recommendation before the decision by Cabinet. As part of their first consideration of these proposals, Member had also received representation from the Safe Cannock Chase group, who had been invited to present their views as the Committee felt it was important.

Following their consideration the Committee were convinced that the Cabinet Members proposals were sound and that they would preserve the most vulnerable areas of Cannock Chase for future generations. However it was recognised the groups of people who access the Chase and the scale of consultation exercise and the level of people who had been able to express their views was considered. Therefore the Cabinet Member was asked to reassess this submit a further report to the Select Committee which they did. This further review and actions taken satisfied the Members of the Committee.

Councillor Wilson, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture, addressed the Committee. She referred to the detailed scrutiny process which had been undertaken and her disappointment that some of the issues being raised had not been raised earlier as she felt she had been willing and open in relation to answering any queries. It was highlighted the importance of Cannock Chase and the responsibility both legally and morally to protect it for further generations in the face of increasing demand and reasons for the development of the partnership.

In support of Councillor Wilson officers responding to the Committee on each of the issues raised within the call in. details were given to highlight the joined up approach to the conservation of the Chase, the Community Impact Assessment undertaken, the ongoing engagement which will take place to incorporate community concerns, the importance of the role of volunteers and highlighted the groups the Council is involved in, the reasons for the consideration of numbers and locations of the parking sites and finally that it was not recognised that there had not been a lack of ecological assessment.

A Member highlighted the increase in traffic that they had observed of time and that consultation in their view could only give part of the picture and they recognised within the proposals further consultation would be undertaken. They also detailed the support they were aware of for the proposals.

Another Member stated they were not against the proposals however it was the execution that was of concern and therefore supported the reasons for the call in. They also raised concern in relation to the Ranger service their experience and roles they undertake and their limited resources. They would like to see a review of the Rangers service.

A Member requested reassurance that any funds generated would be re invested and also concerns about car parking displacement. Councillor Wilson responded that funding would be invested into the Parking Plan alongside funding for other area to conserve the Chase.

Councillor Woodward moved the motion, seconded by Councillor C Atkins, that the matter be referred on to Cabinet with the specific issues raised, in particular how would the proposals be implemented and the condonation of the work with volunteers, for Cabinet to consider.

Councillor C Atkins For
Councillor M Davies Against
Councillor H Fisher Against
Councillor C Greatorex Against
Councillor J Francis Against
Councillor I Parry Against
Councillor J Pert Against
Councillor B Peters Against
Councillor N Pullen Against
Councillor S Sweeney Against
Councillor C Wileman Against
Councillor S Woodward For

Against a vote by the Committee this motion was lost.

Councillor Francis moved the motion, seconded by Councillor Parry, that the Committee agree for the decision to be implemented as set out in the original decision notice

Councillor C Atkins Against
Councillor M Davies For
Councillor H Fisher For
Councillor C Greatorex For
Councillor J Francis For
Councillor I Parry For
Councillor J Pert For
Councillor B Peters For
Councillor N Pullen For
Councillor S Sweeney For
Councillor C Wileman For
Councillor S Woodward Abstain

This motion was agreed.

RESOLVED – that the Corporate Review Committee that the Committee agree for the decision to be implemented as set out in the original decision notice

Chairman

Local Members Interest

Corporate Review Committee – Thursday 10 June 2021

Conclusions of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Working Group

Recommendation(s)

I recommend that:

- a. The Corporate Review Committee notes the work undertaken by the SEND Working Group and agrees to regular reports on the implementation of the Written Statement of Actions and any subsequent Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission inspections being considered at the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee (previously Safe and Strong Select Committee).

Report of Councillor John Francis, Chairman, SEND Working Group

Summary

What is the Select Committee being asked to do and why?

1. The Corporate Review Committee is asked to consider the progress that has been made so far in scrutinising the Written Statement of Action (WSOA) and other actions and to make any suggestions for improvement.
2. Decide to conclude the work of the SEND Working Group and in its place agree to regular update reports on activity and progress being considered by the Safe and Strong Select Committee.

Report

Background

3. Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission undertook a joint local area inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Staffordshire between 12 November and 16 November 2018 to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and disability (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.
4. Due to the findings of this inspection and in accordance with the Children Act 2004 (Joint Area Reviews) Regulations 2015, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI) determined that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) was required because of significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice. HMCI also determined that the local authority and the area's Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) were jointly responsible for submitting the written statement to Ofsted.

5. Details of the main findings from the inspection, including some areas of strength and further improvement were given in the inspection report. These have been transferred into a WSOA that was signed off by both the County Council and the CCG. The WSOA was submitted to Ofsted in April 2019.

6. Members, at that time, were most concerned to read of the findings in the report. It was agreed on 24 January 2019 at a meeting of the Scrutiny Chairs Forum that a small Working Group (WG) of the relevant Select Committees (Healthy Staffordshire, Safe and Strong Communities and Prosperous Staffordshire) members be formed with the Chairman of Safe and Strong Communities taking the lead. The Members of the Working Group were nominated by the Chairs of the relevant Select Committee and are as follows:

- Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee: Charlotte Atkins, Ann Edgeller, Phil Hewitt,
- Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee: Alistair Little (replaced Julia Jessel when she joined the Cabinet), Bryan Jones, Kyle Robinson
- Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee: John Francis, Paul Snape, Bob Spencer.
- The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Mark Sutton attended earlier meetings of the WG along with Jonathan Price, now Cabinet member for Education (including SEND).

(NB Committee changes have taken place since the time of Members' appointment to these Committees, but the SEND Working Group membership has remained as above).

7. The Working Groups Terms of Reference were to monitor the development and implementation of the WSoA, which was produced to address concerns raised by the Joint Local Area SEND Inspection report produced by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following their inspection in November 2018.

8. Corporate Review at its meeting on the 10 September 2019 felt that it was appropriate to continue with the current Working Group arrangements and that the group should continue to monitor the action plan and report to the Corporate Review Select Committee.

9. The Working Group have met on a number of occasions and have undertaken the following:

29 March 2019	<p>The Joint Local Area SEND Inspection report produced by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following their inspection in November 2018 was considered.</p> <p>At the meeting members had the opportunity to go through the draft WSOA line by line and ask questions of the Cabinet Member and officers. The Committee made a broad range of observations. The Cabinet Member agreed to take these on board.</p>
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	<p>WG requested action: Comments of the working group added to the WSoA. When the Action Plan was approved by Ofsted, more detailed plans to support each focus area would be developed and would be reported to the WG.</p>
21 June 2019	<p>The WG gave consideration of the WSoA (submitted to Ofsted in April) and its 8 priority areas contained in the action plan.</p> <p>Members main concerns were around partnership involvement in the commissioning process (including with parents/guardians); the quality and time taken to complete Education Health and Care Plans and the shortage of Educational Psychologists, nationally and locally; the resources required to implement the actions in the WSOA at a time of financial pressure and the challenging timescales set out in the plan.</p> <p>WG requested action: A copy of the Performance framework was requested prior to the next meeting. Members of the WG to visit a pilot Hubs.</p>
September to December 2019	<p>WG Members visited the Pilot Hubs to see how they worked.</p>
23 January 2020	<p>Unfortunately, the Performance framework was being reviewed and was not available at the meeting. Progress on the 8 priority areas was considered.</p> <p>Members discussed the purpose of the Working Group and agreed that without the Performance Framework information they were not in a position to access if the WSoA was being implemented or what, if any, the problem areas were or if changes were due to be carried out on time.</p> <p>Lack of communication between partners/services was still considered to be an issue.</p> <p>WG requested action: That the Performance Framework be circulated to the Working Group as soon as possible and that at the next meeting the ‘delayed or problem areas’ of the action plan should be considered.</p>
25 February 2020	<p>(WSoA) and the Performance Framework detailing the work undertaken on the priority areas. The main areas of concern were practitioners talking to schools and parents at an earlier stage and the Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) back log being addressed. Hubs challenging each other to ensure appropriate performance and level of support offered.</p>

	WG requested action: More information on work on priority areas to next meeting.
7 July 2020	The Transformation plan was formally considered by the Safe and Strong Select Committee . The impact of the pandemic was considered alongside the implementation of the plan. The SEND working Group were invited to the meeting to participate in the debate.
27 July 2020	The SEND Partnership status report and WSoA were considered by the WG along with the main three priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Timeliness and quality of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and reviews ii. Rollout of the Inclusion and SEND District Hubs iii. Multiagency working/co-production WG requested action: Further meeting to monitor the 'next steps' outlined in the partnership status report.
12 November 2020	Draft SEND Strategy was considered by the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee . The SEND Working Group were invited to the meeting to consider and commented on the draft.
26 January 2021	The Working Group received an update on the Strategy which they had previously been involved in developing via the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee in November 2020. The consultation process was explained. Responses had been used to develop the draft strategy. The WSoA was 2 years on from the original inspection. Re-inspection was due shortly. WG requested action: The Working Group discussed the need to complete their work and report their findings back to Corporate Review Committee. The Group agreed that the Chairman produce the report and request that regular updates be provided to the Safe and Strong Select Committee.

10. At its meeting on 26 January, the Working Group felt that as the service was due to be re-inspected, it would be appropriate and timely to conclude their work and for further reports to be considered by either the Prosperous Select Committee or the Safe and Strong Select Committee.

11. No further meeting of the Working Group have been arranged.

Link to Strategic Plan

12. This work links to the priority 'Improve Education and Skills provision in our schools, colleges and universities so that more people gain the training and qualifications they need to succeed'.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

13. See paragraph 11 above.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Joint local area SEND inspection in Staffordshire November 2018.

<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50050510>

Contact Details:

Report Author:	Councillor John Francis
Job Title:	Chairman, Safe and Strong Communities Select Committee and Chair of SEND Working Group
E-Mail Address:	john.francis@staffordshire.gov.uk

Local Members' Interest
n/a

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 10 June 2021

Work Programme Planning 2021/22

Recommendation

That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers and prioritises the matters for inclusion on its work programme for 2021/22.

Report of the Scrutiny and Support Manager

Summary

1. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the Council's Principal Overview and Scrutiny Committee. It is responsible for leading on the overall management and coordination of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees work programmes as well as:
 - Holding the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to account for their leadership and performance.
 - Scrutiny of the Council's overall performance and approach to managing performance and Strategic Corporate Planning
 - Scrutiny of the Council's ongoing programme of improvement and transformation.
 - Scrutiny of the Local Enterprise Partnership
 - Dealing with any Executive decisions that have been called in.
 - Scrutiny of the Council's support services including Finance, ICT, Human Resources, Organisational Development, Legal and Member Services
 - Building community capacity
2. Corporate Overview and Scrutiny can also establish an MTFs Working Group on an annual basis. The Working Group will be responsible for the scrutiny of the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, Annual Budget and Council Tax setting process.
3. Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the overarching Overview and Scrutiny Committee with responsibility for holding the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to account and ensuring overall effective scrutiny of the policy, customer insight and transformation agendas and financial management of the County Council. It also has lead responsibility for ensuring effective and co-ordinated scrutiny across the Council's Scrutiny Committees and for handling Call Ins.

4. In developing a work programme the Committee is encouraged to identify issues that are a current priority for local people and communities and/or are a priority for the Council and partners. If a matter is a recurring issue for the people you collectively as Councillors represent then the likelihood is that it is something the Scrutiny Committee should spend time on. The more relevant the issue is to local communities then the greater the likelihood of engaging those communities in the scrutiny process and of producing outcomes that will be visible to those communities. Members are encouraged to raise and discuss issues that should form the basis of the work programme and review these periodically throughout the year to ensure they remain relevant and will add value to what the Council and partners are doing.

The Remit of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny

5. In essence Corporate Overview and Scrutiny's key focus is in terms of gaining assurances that the Council has a clear strategic direction, effective leadership to deliver against these and effective mechanisms in place for the financial management, people and resources management and governance of the Council. It also has a role in ensuring the Council's direction and activities are being directly informed by the views of customers and the public through effective use of customer insight and complaints.
6. The main responsibilities of the Committee are to:
 - **Hold the Leader to account** for the overall strategic direction and delivery of the County Council. Individual Cabinet Members will be accountable for their actions and decisions through the relevant Scrutiny Committees. They will be requested to attend to give evidence on specific issues highlighted through the relevant work programme. The Committee will have the opportunity to scrutinise the Council's Strategic Plan on an annual basis and hold the Leader to account for the overall progress against the Plan.
 - **Holding the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to account** for progress against the overall Transformation Programme. The individual Transformation projects will be scrutinised by the respective Scrutiny Committee and the relevant Cabinet Member called to give evidence as appropriate. The Committee's role is to monitor progress of the overall programme and to consider how the programme is delivering improved services, value for money and innovation. It is also responsible for challenging the extent to which the Council is learning and implementing lessons from past commissioning and transformation activities.
 - **Ensuring best practice in terms of financial management, people and resource management, performance management, governance and risk management** to enable the organisation to be bold in terms of innovation and service delivery and to effectively manage risks from a range of models for service delivery. The Council uses a range of delivery models to provide services to local people with Entrust, the Partnership Trust and Infrastructure+ being some recent or proposed examples. The service quality elements of these will be picked up by the relevant Scrutiny Committees but the impact upon the MTFs

and the models of governance, people management and the overall exposure to risk are matters that fall into the remit of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny.

- The Committee has a specific role in scrutinising the development of the Medium Term Financial Strategy which is considered in greater detail later in the report
- **Ensuring customer insight is at the heart of the Council's approach to delivering and improving services** and that the Council is effectively listening to and responding to complaints. As a Council responsive to public needs it is important that there are effective mechanisms to listen, reflect upon and respond to the views of customers and citizens. Corporate Review has a role in ensuring such systems are in place and that the Council is effectively responding to issues and feeding back to local communities.
- **The effectiveness and strategic impact of scrutiny.** The Scrutiny and Support Manager is accountable to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny for the overall direction of Scrutiny. The impact of best practice and new legislation relating to scrutiny will be presented to this Committee to enable reflection on the approach to scrutiny adopted by the County Council and its effectiveness. Corporate Overview and Scrutiny also has a role in co-ordinating the overall work programmes of the Scrutiny Committees to ensure they are outcomes focussed, achievable and don't duplicate each other. Corporate Overview and Scrutiny may pick up cross cutting issues that don't readily fit within the remits of the other Scrutiny Committees.
- **Scrutinise matters that have been Called In.** Corporate Overview and Scrutiny is the lead body for considering matters that have been Called In (a decision that has been stopped pending further investigation by non Executive Members).

Developing the Work Programme

7. This meeting is an opportunity for Corporate Overview and Scrutiny to begin to identify and prioritise what it wishes to scrutinise during the current municipal year. As with all scrutiny activity Members are encouraged to ask the following questions when devising a work programme:
 - Is the matter of particular concern to local people? You may wish to reflect on topics raised with you when canvassing.
 - Is the issue an identified priority for the County Council or partners?
 - Does the issue relate to an area of service with a trend in weak performance? For example has this issue been identified by external auditors or inspectors?
 - What difference could scrutiny make?
 - What would happen if you did not look at this issue?

Matters from Last Year's Work Programme

8. Whilst it is for the Committee to determine what they do and do not want to include in the work programme, there are some issues from last year that the Committee may want to consider. There is a draft work programme attached as Appendix 2.

Recurring Work Programme Items

9. Integrated Performance and Delivery Progress Report - This quarterly report provides, an overview of Staffordshire County Council's performance in delivering our priority outcomes focused upon ensuring:
 - a. The people of Staffordshire will be able to access more good jobs and feel the benefits of economic growth,
 - b. The people of Staffordshire will be healthier and more independent,
 - c. The people of Staffordshire will feel safer, happier and more supported in and by their community.
10. A review of the Transformation Programme has been included in this report and reported on a quarterly basis since 2011. This provides an opportunity to determine how the Committee can best contribute towards the delivery of the Transformation Programme. In relation to the Transformation Programme, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee may identify projects which should be subject to more in depth scrutiny by the relevant Scrutiny Committee for which the issue falls within its remit.

MTFS Scrutiny

11. It is the responsibility of Full Council to approve the budget and associated council tax. All Councillors have a 'fiduciary duty' to look after the interests of local tax payers in the management of the Council's resources. Accountability to the local tax payer is important to the role of the Member as an elected local representative who is ultimately accountable at the ballot box.
12. Financial scrutiny provides a way for Members to help ensure that the Council manages its finances well, through examining and challenging how public money is allocated, managed and spent.
13. The involvement of scrutiny Members can also help to make the annual budget and medium term financial planning processes open and transparent, including to the public. Councillors who are confident about the Council's finances can engage the public in communication about difficult decisions around priority, cost, income generation and level of council tax.
14. Together with the other roles of scrutiny, financial scrutiny can support integration between planning, performance and financial management. For the coming year Members will be encouraged to take a wider perspective in terms of the value for money being delivered by the services for which the County Council is responsible for.

Aspects of Financial Scrutiny

15. There are three main, linked aspects to financial scrutiny. These are:

16. **Scrutiny of budget setting** - this focuses on reviewing whether the Council will deliver a good and balanced budget with reference to: financial strategy in the wider planning context; how the budget is constructed and decisions made; what criteria, information and consultation shape the budget; and resource allocation according to priority.

17. **Scrutiny of budget monitoring through the year** - this is not about the technical detail but is about reviewing whether: effective budget monitoring systems are in place; in-year variation (under or over spending) is understood and addressed; and lessons and issues arising from the end of year outturn position are understood and addressed.

18. **Scrutiny of the financial aspects of subjects under review** - whether reviewing the operation of a partnership or service, contributing to policy development or reviewing an area of performance, scrutiny Members consider the associated resources.

19. These three aspects need to cross refer so that scrutiny Members are able to test whether the Council is directing resources effectively to meet priorities and achieving value for money and to make comments or recommendations to support this.

20. As part of the Council's political arrangements, this Committee are responsible for scrutiny of the budget and medium term financial strategy. It is recommended that a working group be established with representatives from Corporate Overview and Scrutiny.

Good Practice

21. The elements of the previous arrangements that were highlighted by Members as good practice are:

- looking at budget setting from a corporate perspective - early involvement/opportunity to influence
- the inclusion in the financial scrutiny process of interviews with Directors around a structured set of questions (full and frank discussions)
- the opportunity for scrutiny of the service review options put forward as part of the budget proposals
- the integration of the budget monitoring and budget setting roles and the opportunity to follow through issues raised in scrutiny.

22. Reference was also made to the value of good quality information and officer support to assist Members to undertake financial scrutiny and to the expertise that the Members who had been engaged in the process had gained.

23. The existing model of financial scrutiny meets the majority of these criteria but, in the context of the integration of performance and financial management, it is timely to look at how the elements of finance scrutiny are delivered.

Proposed arrangements for financial scrutiny in 2021/22

24. In the context of the information above, the following arrangements are proposed for financial scrutiny in 2021/22.

25. **Role of Medium Term Financial Strategy Working Group** - It is recommended that the Medium Term Financial Strategy Working Group be established, to assist the Committee with scrutiny of budget setting from a corporate perspective. For illustration, criteria for a balanced and good budget would include:

- income equals expenditure;
- savings targets and investment proposals are credible;
- there is a medium term focus, supporting the Strategic Plan;
- resources are invested in priority areas;
- it is not driven by short term fixes to immediate issues;
- it demonstrates how the County Council have listened to consultation;
- it is transparent and well scrutinised; and
- it maintains the County Council's financial stability.

26. It is recommended, to support the integration of performance and financial management, that the Medium Term Financial Strategy Working Group undertake the scrutiny of budget monitoring the performance management of the services concerned. For illustration, lines of enquiry might include: the achievement of efficiency savings; the reasons for over or under spending or virement; and accountability arrangements.

27. It is proposed that the Working Group would commence in September 2021, with a meeting to determine the questions to be asked of Directors at interview (including service review options). To ensure cross-reference of the aspects of financial scrutiny, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee would advise the Working Group of any issues arising from their scrutiny of budget monitoring that they would like to be addressed in scrutiny of budget setting. The Scrutiny Team would ensure that the Group were also advised of any relevant issues raised through scrutiny activity during the year.

Training and development

28. Member and Democratic Services ran four induction sessions on an Introduction to Overview and Scrutiny on 25 and 27 May. Further training and development sessions will be run for Members as required. Members are invited to make any suggestions for development with the Chairman and/or the Scrutiny Team.

Method of Scrutiny

29. Once Members have identified the matters they wish to scrutinise, consideration needs to be given to the most appropriate timing and method of scrutiny for that issue (proposals for some items may be provided). Members may wish to:

- consider an item at a single meeting;
- consider an item over a series of meetings;

- allocate the work to a small group of Members to look at over a period of 2-3 months; or undertake an inquiry day
- Joint scrutiny with members of another Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

30. The choice of method will depend in part on the scope of the matter, capacity and the opportunity for locality working and community engagement in the review. Experience suggests that single issue meetings and small task groups tend to deliver greater recommendations and outcomes than heavy agenda at scheduled committee meetings.

Reviewing the Work Programme

31. There will be an opportunity to review the work programme at every Committee meeting. Members are encouraged to raise issues at any point during the year and this can be done by:

- talking to the Chair/Vice Chairs and Scrutiny and Support Team;
- raising items under the 'Work Programme' item on meeting agenda;
- completing the proposal form for work programme items (on line or in hard copy);
- Councillor Call for Action.

32. The simplest method is to discuss the issue at the work programme item on meeting agenda. In developing a work programme, Members do not need to set in stone the work programme for a full year. To prepare reports and for officers/ witnesses to attend meetings it is important to plan items for the next two to three meetings. Beyond that it is possible that new issues may have arisen that will take precedence; hence it is advisable to review the work programme quarterly and treat it as a dynamic document. This way the Committee will be better able to respond to community concerns as and when they arise.

Link to Strategic Plan

33. The remits of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees link to the strategic priorities set out in the County Council Strategic Plan. Work programmes should link to community priorities or strategic outcomes if they are to deliver noticeable outcomes for local communities and the organisation.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

34. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are encouraged to identify whether any of the issues for their work programmes are 'cross cutting' and would benefit from joint working. Corporate Scrutiny Committee is ultimately responsible for the co-ordination of work programmes across the Scrutiny Committees.

Equalities and Legal Implications

35. The County Council has a responsibility to undertake adequate Equality Impact Assessments to ensure services do not have a negative impact on any one section of the community and the scrutiny committees have a role in ensuring that this responsibility is fulfilled, particularly in regard to health impact. Scrutiny as a function must also comply with the relevant legislation. When considering work programme

items, especially when undertaking reviews of policy, the scrutiny committees must always consider whether their recommendations may impact differently on various individuals/sections of the community.

36. The Overview and Scrutiny Committees will be updated as necessary on any matters affecting their operation that relate to legislation, regulations, and the County Council's Constitution.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

37. Work programmes which are effectively prioritised will ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit.

Risk Implications

38. The key aspects of risk management in regard to scrutiny work programmes are:
- ensuring that there are clear outcomes from the scrutiny process that impact positively upon the people and communities of Staffordshire and link to corporate priorities; and
 - that there is adequate capacity for the select committees to complete the work that has been agreed.

Climate Change Implications

39. The Committee will need to consider the implications for climate change of any recommendations it makes in relation to those issues included on the work programme. The Committee should also consider the implications of the scrutiny methods it decides to utilise – for example, travelling for best practice visits.

Contact Officer

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Appendices/Background papers

Appendix 2 - Final work Programme 2020/21
Appendix 1 - Draft Work Programme 2021/22

WORK PROGRAMME – 2020/2021

Corporate Review Committee

The Corporate Review Committee is the Council's principal scrutiny committee. It is responsible for co-ordinating and approving the scrutiny work programmes, overseeing the work of the Select Committees and ensuring coherence of approach to cross cutting policy themes. The committee also has a key role in challenging progress around the Council's ambitions of running the business well.

The Committee also scrutinises those areas of the County Council's activity focused on corporate improvement. Its remit covers:

- Holding the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to account for achievement of the overall vision of a connected Staffordshire.
- The Council's overall performance and approach to managing performance and Strategic Corporate Planning
- The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy
- The Council's on-going programme of improvement and transformation.
- The Committee is responsible for scrutiny of achievement against the Council's strategic priorities
- The Council as a commissioning organisation including how it uses customer insight to drive improvements in services

We review our work programme regularly to ensure it remains relevant to the challenges facing local communities, the council and its partners.

County Councillor Colin Greatorex
Chairman of the Corporate Review Committee

If you would like to know more about our work programme or how to raise issues for potential inclusion on a work programme then, please get in touch with or Nick Pountney - Scrutiny and Support Manager – Nicholas.pountney@staffordshire.gov.uk 01785 276153.

Date of Meeting	Topic	Link to Council's Strategic Priorities	Background/Outcome
4 June 2020 – virtual meeting	COVID 19 – specifically issues on Health (NHS) and finance. Member: Alan White, Mike Sutherland Officers: Simon Whitehouse/Rob Salmon		That the Chairmen of the Select Committees agreed which committee would be best placed to scrutinise the Local Outbreak Control Plan
Cancelled June 2020 Reserved for Call-in			
Cancelled 11 June 2020			
3 July 2020 (Contact: Nick Pountney/Mandy Pattinson – Scrutiny & Support Manager)	Gender and Equality Issues to include: Member: Philip Atkins /Philip White Officer Sarah Getley.		Item proposed by Leader of the Opposition.
	Covid-19 update Member: Leader		
31 July 2020 Reserved for Call-in (Contact: Nick Pountney/Mandy Pattinson – Scrutiny & Support Manager)	Working Group on Members Parental Leave. Member: Philip Atkins /Philip White Officer Sarah Getley		Comments made and included
	Performance Report – Quarter 4 2019/20 and Quarter 1 2020/21 Member: Mike Sutherland Officer: Andrew Donaldson, Rob Salmon		a) Information on Government funding received and what it had been spent on be circulate to the Committee for information. b) The Cabinet Member agreed to discuss with the Leader the possibility of a meeting with all the Staffordshire MPs to discuss future funding and the need for additional resources. c) That the results of the working group set up to look at client debt be included in the next quarterly update report.

Date of Meeting	Topic	Link to Council's Strategic Priorities	Background/Outcome
8 September 2020 (Contact: Nick Pountney/Mandy Pattinson – Scrutiny & Support Manager)	The Local Outbreak Control Plan Member: Alan White Officer: Richard Harling		Requested at 4 June meeting and 31 July. Committee agreed: Members be supplied with information on the location and demographics of the current cases in Staffordshire.
	Work Programme		Information on the Entrust contract was requested.
Cancelled 2 October 2020 Reserved for Call-in			
Cancelled 6 October 2020			
Cancelled 9 November 2020 Reserved for Call-in			
17 November 2020 (Contact: Nick Pountney/Mandy Pattinson – Scrutiny & Support Manager)	Performance Report – Quarter 2 2020/21 Member: Mike Sutherland Officer: Andrew Donaldson, Rob Salmon		The following information was requested: i. The number of people on the Adult Safeguarding service waiting list and their expected waiting times and information on any changes to the reablement services and assistive technology. ii. Request information from District and Borough Councils on the financial support being offered to business. iii. An update on the number of families receiving support through the Defra Emergency food Scheme; the amount spent to date; and the strategy to reach those families in the most need. iv. The action plan to address the EHCP backlog. v. Information on the £2m investment (on top of the £5m allocated) for improvements to road drains, gully emptying, roadside grass cutting etc be circulated to all Members of the Council. vi. The 5-year action plan to deliver carbon reductions be circulated to the committee for information. vii. An update on the #Doingourbit Community Fund. c) The results of the Residents Survey and the subsequent recommendations be included in the Committees work programme.
	Covid 19 – verbal update report Member: Alan White Officer: Richard Harling		Outcome- The Leader and Officers were thanked for their report
	Corporate Complaints Annual Report Member: Alan White/Mike Sutherland Officer: Kate Bullivant		That the Customer Feedback and Complaints Service annual report 2019/20 be noted. b) The appointment of the post in Highways to deal with complaints was welcomed. c) It was recognised that some complaints were not being

Date of Meeting	Topic	Link to Council's Strategic Priorities	Background/Outcome
			captured due to accessibility of online or automated complaints process. d) That all Members of the Council should receive a copy of the report for information.
	Communities Principles Member: Victoria Wilson Officer: Helen Riley, Andrew Donaldson / Janene Cox		a) The Communities Principle plan was noted. b) A report on b) be included in the work programme.
23 November 2pm Hosted by Stoke City Council Teams meeting	Scrutiny of the LEP (Joint meeting with Stoke City Council) at Stoke City Council Member: Philip White Officers: Darryl Eyers/Anthony Hodges		New governance for the LEP have now been approved. Informal Joint Scrutiny with Stoke City Council. County Hosted on 8 January 2019
Cancelled 4 December 2020 Reserved for Call-in			
Cancelled 8 January 2021 Reserved for Call-in			
21 January 2021 (Contact: Nick Pountney– Scrutiny & Support Manager)	Medium Term Financial Strategy Working Group - Final Report Officer: Nick Pountney		
	Digital Inclusion (including those with SEND) Member: Mike Sutherland Officer: Andrew Donaldson/Laura Ballinger/Adam Rooney		
	Staffordshire Covid-19 Resident Survey Findings Member: Alan White Officer: Andrew Donaldson/Wendy Tompson/Kerry Dove		

Date of Meeting	Topic	Link to Council's Strategic Priorities	Background/Outcome
5 February 2021 Call-in (Contact: Nick Pountney – Scrutiny & Support Manager)	Consideration of the Call in of the Cabinet Decision – Protecting Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation for Future Generations Member: Officers:		
Cancelled 5 March 2021 Reserved for Call-in			
Cancelled 30 March 2021			
Cancelled 6 April 2021 Reserved for Call-in			
TBC	Equal Opportunities		Raised at 3/7/20 committee – need more equality areas in the work programme. Discussion with Chair and Vice Chairs/officers 6/10/20. Draft paper being prepared, setting out the current position from both a community and workforce perspective. Focus groups to be arranged. Following this a general refresh of Equality Objectives will be carried out. Then report to Corporate Review for scrutiny and to inform the committee of the areas which need priority.
TBC	Governance and control of Arm's length companies/partners. E.g. Nexxus / Entrust / AMEY. Particularly in light of Robin Hood Energy/Nottingham City Council. What is out process, how is performance measured, how are contract changes negotiated, what influence do we have. Member: Philip White Officer: Helen Riley /Darryl Eyers/John Tradewell/ Ian Turner		Item discussed with Chair and Vice Chairs. MTFS to look at financial aspects. Report requested for early 2021, possibly January in line with MTFS findings.
TBC	Digital Strategy Member: Mike Sutherland		Digital Strategy requested at 10 January 2020 meeting. Also requested by Prosperous Committee.

Items for Consideration for the Work Programme

Suggested item	Link to the Council's Commissioning Plans	Background	Possible Option
Networks – E.g. Leaders group/CE groups/LGA - how is the information shared?		Discussed at Chairs/Vice Chairs meeting 07/10/20	

Working Group updates

MTFS 2020	Appointment of Members 2020	Membership (appointed 31 July 2020): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Atkins • John Francis • Colin Greatorex (Chairman) • Ian Parry • Jeremy Pert • Jeremy Oates • Martyn Tittley • Susan Woodward 	Observers Mike Sutherland Alan White
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Page 30

Suggested Working Group item	Link to the Council's Commissioning Plans	Background	Possible Option

Membership - County Councillors	Calendar of Committee Meetings
Colin Greatorex (Chairman) Conor Wileman (Vice Chairman) Charlotte Atkins Mike Davies Helen Fisher John Francis Jeremy Oates Ian Parry	4 May 2020 (virtual) 4 June 2020 (virtual) 8 June 2020 - cancelled reserved for call in 11 June 2020 - cancelled 3 July 2020 (virtual) 31 July 2020 (virtual) 8 September 2020 (virtual) 2 October 2020 - cancelled reserved for call-in 6 October 2020 at 2pm – cancelled 9 November 2020 reserved for call-in

Jeremy Pert	17 November 2020 (virtual)	
Bernard Peters	4 December 2020 – cancelled	reserved for call-in
Natasha Pullen	8 January 2021 – cancelled	reserved for call-in
Stephen Sweeney	21 January 2021 (virtual)	
Susan Woodward (Opposition Vice Chairman)	5 February 2021	Call-in
	5 March 2021 at 2pm	reserved for call-in
	30 March 2021	
	6 April 2021	reserved for call-in

WORK PROGRAMME – 2021/2022

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the Council's principal scrutiny committee. It is responsible for co-ordinating and approving the scrutiny work programmes, overseeing the work of the Scrutiny Committees and ensuring coherence of approach to cross cutting policy themes. The committee also has a key role in challenging progress around the Council's ambitions of running the business well.

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- The Council's overall performance and approach to managing performance and Strategic Corporate Planning
- The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy
- The Council's on-going programme of improvement and transformation.
- The Committee is responsible for scrutiny of achievement against the Council's strategic priorities
- The Council as a commissioning organisation including how it uses customer insight to drive improvements in services

We review our work programme regularly to ensure it remains relevant to the challenges facing local communities, the council and its partners.

County Councillor Colin Greatorex
Chairman of the Corporate Review Committee

If you would like to know more about our work programme or how to raise issues for potential inclusion on a work programme then, please get in touch with or Nick Pountney - Scrutiny and Support Manager – Nicholas.pountney@staffordshire.gov.uk 01785 276153.

Date of Meeting	Topic	Link to Council's Strategic Priorities	Background/Outcome
10 June 2021	Induction to the Committee and Work Programme Planning Member: Alan White/Ian Parry Officer: John Tradewell, Rob Salmon/Nick Pountney		
2 July 2021 Reserved for Call In			
29 July 2021	Performance Report – Quarter 2 2020/21 Member: Alan White/Ian Parry Officer: John Tradewell, Rob Salmon		
	Appointment of the MTFS Working Group Officer: Carol Bloxham/Nick Pountney		
6 August 2021 Reserved for Call in			
7 September 2021			
1 October 2021 Reserved for Call In			
5 October 2021			
8 November 2021 Reserved for Call In			
16 November 2021			

Date of Meeting	Topic	Link to Council's Strategic Priorities	Background/Outcome
3 December 2021			
7 January 2022 Reserved for Call In			
20 January 2022			
4 February 2022 Reserved for Call In			
4 March 2022 Reserved for Call In			
29 March 2022			
5 April 2022 Reserved for Call In			
TBC	Equal Opportunities		<p>Raised at 3/7/20 committee – need more equality areas in the work programme. Discussion with Chair and Vice Chairs/officers 6/10/20.</p> <p>Draft paper being prepared, setting out the current position from both a community and workforce perspective. Focus groups to be arranged. Following this a general refresh of Equality Objectives will be carried out. Then report to Corporate Review for scrutiny and to inform the committee of the areas which need priority.</p>
TBC	Governance and control of Arm's length companies/partners. E.g. Nexxus / Entrust / AMEY. Particularly in light of Robin Hood Energy/Nottingham City Council. What is out process, how is performance measured, how are contract changes		Item discussed with Chair and Vice Chairs. MTFS to look at financial aspects. Report requested for early 2021, possibly January in line with MTFS findings.

Date of Meeting	Topic	Link to Council's Strategic Priorities	Background/Outcome
	negotiated, what influence do we have. Member: Philip White Officer: Helen Riley /Darryl Evers/John Tradewell/ Ian Turner		
TBC	Digital Strategy Member: Ian Parry		Digital Strategy requested at 10 January 2020 meeting. Also requested by Prosperous Committee.

Items for Consideration for the Work Programme

Suggested item	Link to the Council's Commissioning Plans	Background	Possible Option
Networks – E.g. Leaders group/CE groups/LGA - how is the information shared?		Discussed at Chairs/Vice Chairs meeting 07/10/20	
Scrutiny of the LEP Member: Philip White Officers: Darryl Evers/Anthony Hodges			

Page 36

Working Group updates

MTFS 2021/22	Appointment of Members 2021	Membership •	Observers
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Suggested Working Group item	Link to the Council's Commissioning Plans	Background	Possible Option

Membership - County Councillors	Calendar of Committee Meetings
Colin Greatorex (Chairman) Conor Wileman (Vice Chairman - Overview) Gill Heath (Vice Chairman – Scrutiny) Charlotte Atkins Tina Clements Mike Davies Jeremy Oates Jeremy Pert Bernard Peters James Salisbury Bob Spencer Samantha Thompson Mike Worthington	10 June 2021 2 July 2021 reserved for call in 11 June 2021 3 July 2021 29 July 2021 6 August 2021 reserved for call in 7 September 2021 1 October 2021 reserved for call-in 5 October 2021 8 November 2021 reserved for call-in 16 November 2021 3 December 2021 reserved for call-in 7 January 2022 reserved for call-in 20 January 2022 4 February 2021 reserved for call-in 29 March 2021 5 April 2022 reserved for call-in

