

## **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 13 September 2022**

### **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-23 Update**

#### **Recommendation(s)**

I recommend that:

- a. Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme update report.
- b. Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and comment on the planned Work Programme 2022-23.

#### **Report of Deputy Chief Executive & Director for Corporate Services John Tradewell**

#### **Summary**

1. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the overarching scrutiny body with responsibility for developing and agreeing the combined work programme for the Council's overview and scrutiny function. The work programme co-ordinates items scheduled at each of the Council's four overview and scrutiny committees.
2. Members are asked to consider the update on programme delivery and work planned by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2022-23.

#### **Background**

3. The Local Government Act 2000 states that Councils operating executive arrangements must also make provision for the appointment of one or more overview and scrutiny committees. At their Annual meeting on 19 May 2022, the County Council appointed the following committees:
  - Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
  - Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny
  - Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny
  - Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny

4. The Terms of Reference for each Overview and Scrutiny Committee can be viewed in [Section 7 of the County Councils Constitution](#).
5. In May 2022, each committee developed a draft work programme of matters that fall within their Terms of Reference taking into account any outstanding items from previous years' work programmes, as necessary.
6. Work programmes are reviewed at each committee meeting to take account of new information which becomes available and emerging priorities etc to ensure they remain relevant and timely.
7. Scrutiny Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen hold regular Triangulation meetings with Executive Members and Directors and where applicable with senior officers from partner organisations, to discuss emerging matters, priorities and circumstances that might change decision making and scrutiny timelines.
8. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee membership includes all Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committees in order to maintain oversight of the combined work programme (appendix 1).
9. Members are requested to review the contents and timelines in the work programmes to:-
  - a) ensure they remain appropriate having regard to any cross-cutting matters (i.e. those which might fall under the Terms of Reference of more than one Committee)
  - b) provide a wider view of the issue(s) involved before Committees focus on their key lines of enquiry.

### **Current position**

10. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are progressing the current work programme (Appendix 1) and have completed the first quarter meetings from May – July 2022.
11. The report provides a summary of activity from quarter 1 and focus for committees, work groups and other scrutiny activity quarter 2, August – October 2022.
12. Work Programme progress:
  - a) Eleven Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings were held between 30 May 2022 and 2 August 2022. Twenty two topics have been considered.

- b) Member briefings and pre-meetings were arranged online, briefing papers circulated, and links to further information to develop knowledge and awareness of specific issues have been circulated where appropriate.
- c) A 'Developing Healthier Communities' workshop was held on 21 June for Health and Care O&S Members, District and Borough Members and Partners. There will be a follow up report to Committee in October.
- d) Scrutiny working groups have been established or re-convened in 2022-23 to look in depth at specific issues:
  - Climate Change
  - Women's Health
  - Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
  - Integrated Care Hubs – County, District and Borough Members Working Groups will report back to relevant O&S Committees.
- e) An informal workshop with Young Carers is scheduled at the end of September with Members from Safeguarding O&S to consider the services they receive.
- f) To ensure the continuous development of the scrutiny function all Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees meet quarterly with the Scrutiny and Support Team to reflect on scrutiny process, develop working mechanisms and share good practice. The Overview and Scrutiny Chairs Forum met on 6 June 2022 and will meet again on 22 September 2022.

## **Work Programme Focus for Quarter 2**

### **13. Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee:**

- a. 13 September meeting will consider the O&S work programmes; The Councils draft submission to the Boundary Commission; An update on the Governance review;
- b. 25 October is due to look at the corporate Complaints Annual Report 2021/22; LGSCO Annual report; Integrated Performance report quarter 2; Review of the Entrust changes; and the Climate Change working Group final report.
- c. Informal meeting has been arranged to look at Data sharing with partners. This item has recently been considered at Audit and Standards Committee so is for information.
- d. 7 October and 7 November, have been reserved for any called in decisions.

14. Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a. 19 September focus is on the health and care system pressures and performance.
- b. 22 September Joint Scrutiny with City of Wolverhampton Council of the Quality Account for Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.
- c. Additional meeting 3 October 2022 to focus on Adult Social Care reform, the future of supported living services, developing healthier communities workshop findings and Public Health performance dashboard.
- d. 17 October meeting focus will be focus on workforce issues across health and care in Staffordshire and the impact of the findings and recommendations from the Ockenden Report, the independent review of Maternity Services at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust.

15. Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a. 29 September: – (i) Schools White Paper; (ii) Highways Transformation Progress and Performance and; (iii) SEND and Special Education Provision Capital Spend 2022-2024.
- b. 19 October 2022: – (i) Countryside Review – Update; (ii) Staffordshire History Centre - Update; (iii) Libraries Arts – Update; (iii) Chasewater Vision; (iv) Economic Recovery Renewal and Transformation/Economic and Rural Strategies Sixth monthly Progress Update

16. Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a. The 1 September meeting largely focuses on developments within Children's Services, scrutinising: (i) the MacAlister Report, looking at the potential impact for Staffordshire's children's services from the report's proposals; (ii) delivery of the changes introduced as part of the Children's Services Transformation, including meeting the expected timescales; (iii) pre-decision scrutiny on the Family Hub initiative; and (iv) the Ofsted focused visit – improvement action plan.  
This meeting will also consider a pre-decision scrutiny item on the Domestic Abuse recommissioning arrangements.
- b. An additional meeting on 24 October has been added to focus on community safety, looking at the outcome of the Fishmonger Hall Investigation as well as the LA's role in the Prevent Partnership.
- c. 24 November is currently scrutinising the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board Annual report.

17. Potential topics with cross remits:

- a. North Staffordshire Air Quality Plan (Prosperous), Health implications have been indicated as a potential Health and Care issue.
- b. Highways transformation plan (Prosperous) and monitoring Amey contract (Corporate)

### **Link to Strategic Plan**

18. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee remits and work programmes are developed to ensure that scrutiny reinforces the value and importance of challenge and they are aligned to the ambitions and delivery of the principles, priorities and outcomes of the Strategic Plan 2022-2026.

### **Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity**

19. The work programme will co-ordinate scrutiny activity between the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees, identify matters for joint scrutiny or determine the lead committee for an issue, and take into account where and when scrutiny can add value and influence decision making.

### **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-23

Background Documents

Link 1 - Corporate O&S Committee Work Programme: [2 August 2022](#)

Link 2: Health and Care O&S Committee Work Programme: [11 July 2022](#)

Link 3: Prosperous O&S Committee Work Programme: [7 July 2022](#)

Link 4: Safeguarding O&S Committee Work Programme: [1 August 2022](#)

### **Contact Details**

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