

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday 20 June 2023**

### **Work Programme Planning**

#### **Recommendation**

- a. That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and agree an initial list of priorities to form the basis of their work programme for 2023/24.

#### **Report of the Scrutiny and Support Officer**

1. The scrutiny structures have been designed to ensure effective accountability for the delivery against the Council's key outcomes set out in Staffordshire County Council's Strategic Plan. The Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee remit is:
  - Holding the Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources 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.
2. 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 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.

## Report

### Background

3. The Committee should focus on corporate improvement.

### Developing the Work Programme

4. This meeting is an opportunity for the Committee to begin to identify and prioritise what it wishes to scrutinise during the current municipal year. Officers and Cabinet Members will be present at the meeting to outline the County Council's responsibilities in relation to the Committees remit.

5. When agreeing matters for your work programme you are encouraged to ask the following questions:

- Is the matter of particular concern to local people?
- 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 Arising from Last Year's Work Programme

6. Areas that were highlighted for further work during the last municipal year are as follows, these have been added to the draft work programme for your approval:

- Climate Change Annual Report and Action Plan -24 October 2023;
- Entrust – Review of changes – 24 October 2023;
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Principles, Objectives and Action Plan update – 18 December 2023;
- Local Enterprise Partnership – 16 January 2024;

### Recurring Work Programme Items

**Complaints Annual Report and Local Government Social Care Ombudsman** - Trends in complaints are used to inform the Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

**Integrated Performance Report** - The Committee considers the performance and MTFS position on a quarterly basis.

**Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes** – This is a quarterly report to ensure no duplication of items across the Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

### **Training and development**

7. Training and development sessions will be run for Members as required. Members are invited to make any suggestions for development to the Chair or the Scrutiny and Support Officer.

### **Link to the Strategic Plan**

8. The remits of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees link to the strategic priorities set out in the County Council Strategic Plan.

### **Implications**

9. 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. 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.

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

Draft Work Programme 2023/24

### **Contact Details**

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