

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD – 24 JANUARY 2019**

**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19 – INTERIM UPDATE**

**REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE, PROCUREMENT & COMMISSIONING**

**1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To provide a progress update on delivery of the 2018/19 Scrutiny Work Programme to enable the Board to monitor performance and agree any actions arising.
- 1.2 To seek Member’s views on the approach to work programming for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.
- 1.3 To provide an update on new Scrutiny Guidance.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the report and agree any actions deemed necessary arising from the report.
- 2.2 To consider the approach to Work Programming for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

**3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	No	
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	Borough Wide
<b>DELIVERY DATE</b>	Following the agreed cessation of rolling work programmes, the 2018/19 work programme should be delivered in-year.	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	Scrutiny has a role in ensuring that local government is effective and accountable. This includes undertaking reviews and challenging and monitoring performance. Provision for the cost of supporting the Scrutiny function is considered as part of the ongoing budget setting cycle. 2018/19 operations are being delivered within the current year budget. The Council’s budget for 2019/20 is a work in progress and resources for that year will be determined as part of that process. The financial implications of any recommendations made by Scrutiny should be considered as part of reports

		detailing the actions being proposed.  RP-01/2019
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	Overview & Scrutiny for local authorities was introduced as part of the modernisation of local government in Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000. It required every local authority to have at least one O&S committee, to: hold the Executive to account; undertake policy development and review; monitor and improve performance; investigate issues of public concern; and carry out external scrutiny including the NHS.  Establishing a work plan, and resources as set out in this report will assist O&S to effectively meet its objectives.  SAD - 08.01.19
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	No	
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	Borough-wide impact.

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Handbook sets out the process for agreeing an annual work programme based on the municipal year. The Scrutiny Management Board is responsible for overseeing delivery of the work programme, allocating resources across committees and making recommendations about the priorities for scrutiny.
- 1.2 Scrutiny Committees decide the items to scrutinise during the year paying regard to the allocated resources and the Board's recommendations and report progress back to the Board.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Management Board met on 5 June 2018 to consider the priorities for 2018/19 and agreed the following
  - All the suggestions for the work programme were referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committees to prioritise two or three items in their own work programmes
  - Each Scrutiny Committee would receive an initial allocation of four formal meetings per year, of which at least three would be held before Christmas 2018.
- 1.4 Each Scrutiny Committee met during June or July 2018 and agreed their work programmes which are set out at Appendix 1.

## 2.0 ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

- 2.1 Effective delivery of the work programme requires the efficient use of Member time and officer resources, both in Democratic & Scrutiny Services and in service areas subject to scrutiny where capacity to support scrutiny reviews may be limited.
- 2.2 The allocation of scrutiny resources to support Scrutiny Committee meetings is determined and managed by the Scrutiny Management Board. Adjustments may be made throughout the year as deemed necessary to deliver the work programme depending on peak workloads.
- 2.4 For the 2018/19 municipal year, an initial allocation of quarterly meetings has been assigned to the Scrutiny Management Board and each Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.5 The table below summarises work to date expressed as the number of scrutiny meetings held compared to the allocated resource (as at 31 December 2018).

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Formal committee meetings</b>	<b>Working group/other officer supported meetings</b>	<b>Total meetings to date</b>	<b>Further planned formal meetings to end of municipal year</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Allocated resource</b>
Scrutiny Management Board	1	0	1	2	3	4
Children & Young People	2	0	2	1	3	4
Customer, Community & Partnership	3	0	3	1	4	4
Finance & Enterprise*	1	0	1	3	4	4
Health & Adult Care	3	0	3	1	4	4
Joint HOSC**	6	0	6	1	7	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20+</b>

\* Finance and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee invited Customer Community & Partnership Committee to engage with the review of Civil Parking Enforcement but for the purposes of avoiding double counting, these meetings have been allocated to Finance & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee only.

\*\* Due to the importance of the Future Fit programme and the specific resource provided for this work within the Governance & Legal Services structure, this Committee was not allocated a specific resource limit. Administration for the meetings is rotated with counterparts at Shropshire Council.

### 3.0 **NEW SUGGESTIONS FOR THE 2018/19 WORK PROGRAMME**

3.1 Two new suggestions have been received from members of the public:

<b>Suggestion</b>	<b>Issue Raised</b>	<b>Source</b>
3.1.1 Local Availability of New Diabetes Technology	<p>Flash Glucose Monitoring helps people monitor their blood glucose (sugar) levels, is easier to use and less painful than finger-prick testing and can also improve self-management. Additionally, it is cost effective for people with diabetes who are treated with insulin and testing frequently.</p> <p>The NHS announced this technology could be made available on prescription in November 2017 (depending on local approval and subject to certain criteria). Wales and around 65% of areas in England have already made it available, however, T&amp;W CCG have not. This means only those who can afford the cost of private purchase can benefit.</p> <p>Scrutiny is asked to hold the CCG to account for this decision.</p>	Borough Councillor
3.1.2 The Impact of Brexit on the Council	Scrutiny is asked to review the Council's resilience to deal with Brexit and any mitigation required	Co-Optee

3.3 The Board should decide whether or not to recommend either or both items be added to the work programme of the relevant Scrutiny Committee, taking account of the criteria for scrutiny:-

- How far scrutiny can realistically change or influence things
- The extent to which residents or businesses are affected by the issue
- How well the Council and Partners are performing in the area
- What else is happening to avoid duplication or wasted effort

3.4 The Board may consider that the suggestions fit within the scope of the existing work programme. In order to accommodate new items in the work programme, existing items may need to be removed to create the capacity to undertake any new

work.

#### **4. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

- 4.1 The process of full work programming, as set out in the Scrutiny Handbook, should begin in January/February 2019 for implementation in 2019/20. Scrutiny Management Board is asked to consider the approach to work programming for the forthcoming municipal year. A suggested timeline for Full Work Programming (as described in the Scrutiny Handbook) is attached at Appendix 2.

#### **5. NEW OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY GUIDANCE**

- 5.1 The Government response to the Commons Select Committee inquiry on the Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees gave a commitment to produce updated guidance for local authorities by the end of 2018. At the time of writing this report, publication had not occurred.
- 5.2. The Government commissioned the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) to draft the guidance. Working together with the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO), CfPS sought feedback on from local authorities via regional Scrutiny and ADSO networks. The government particularly wanted to use this feedback to produce guidance in the following areas:-
- Scrutiny of “external bodies”
  - Access to information
  - Scrutiny of financial resilience and sustainability of councils
- 5.3 The new guidance will be statutory guidance in support of scrutiny arrangements that promote and support strong independent scrutiny.
- 5.4 Depending on the content of the guidance, some amendments to the Scrutiny Handbook and/or the Council’s Constitution may be required.

#### **6. CO-OPTEEES**

The terms of office for all current co-optees will expire on 2 May 2019.

#### **7. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Scrutiny Management Board – 5 June 2018

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Scrutiny Handbook which can be accessed from  
[http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/557/scrutiny\\_handbook](http://www.telford.gov.uk/downloads/file/557/scrutiny_handbook)

Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee report “Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees” and the Government Response which can both be accessed from  
<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/local-authority-scrutiny-17-19/>

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**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19**

**Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee**

School Transport  
Unofficial Exclusions  
Young Carers  
Bullying in Schools  
Education Attainment  
LSCB Annual Report  
Children's Safeguarding Performance Dashboard

**Customer, Community & Partnership Scrutiny Committee**

Anti-Social Behaviour  
Community Safety Partnership (Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership)  
Grounds and Cleansing Service Contract Procurement  
Tackling Vehicle Damage  
Third Party Engagement

**Finance & Enterprise Scrutiny Committee**

Civil Parking Enforcement  
Budget Scrutiny

**Health & Adult Care Scrutiny Committee**

Unmet Needs (My Choice)  
GP Forward View Survey  
Adult Social Care Performance, Budget & Savings

**Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
(with Shropshire Council)**

Reconfiguration of Hospital Services  
Sustainability & Transformation Plan  
Shropshire, T&W Maternity Services  
Fragility of Services provided by SaTH

**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**  
**PROPOSED TIMELINE AND CRITERIA**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Initial Consultation with SMT	<b>18 February 2019</b>
Gathering suggestions: Scrutiny members, co-optees, Cabinet members, Town and Parish Councils and key partners invited to put forward suggestions for the work programme.	<b>1 to 31 March 2019</b>
<u>Final check and comments from SMT</u> Collated list of suggestions sent to SMT for final comment. Any new suggestions or comments which have been received from other people or organisations will be highlighted for SMT to provide any feedback.	<b>SMT meet on 15 April 2019 – two weeks to comment.</b>
Scrutiny Chairs meet informally to consider the suggestions and SMT's comments and agree recommendations for Scrutiny Management Board.  <u>If required Chairs may request assistance from SMT.</u>	<b>June 2019</b>
Scrutiny Management Board meets to formally agree priorities, allocate issues to the relevant Scrutiny Committee(s), allocate resources and make recommendations to the Committees about the priorities.  (Final decisions are made by the Scrutiny Committees.)  <u>SMT will be invited to attend if they wish and will be updated after the meeting.</u>	<b>July 2019</b>
Scrutiny Committees meet to agree work programme.  (Chairs can undertake initial scoping activities prior to the meetings).  <u>SMT will be invited to attend if they wish and will be updated after the meetings.</u>	<b>September 2019</b>
Scrutiny Management Board monitors delivery of the work programme through monitoring reports and Chair's updates.	<b>On-going</b>

**CRITERIA FOR SCRUTINY**

- How far scrutiny can realistically change or influence things
- The extent to which residents or businesses are affected by the issue (borough-wide)
- How well the Council and Partners are performing in the area
- What else is happening to avoid duplication or wasted effort