

TITLE	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – ideas for improvement
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 September 2016
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

To improve the effectiveness of the health overview and scrutiny process.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to consider the proposed ideas for improving the Health Overview and Scrutiny process as set out in the report and agree which of the proposed actions it wishes to adopt.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Research into best practice has identified a number of potential improvements to the existing Overview and Scrutiny process. A number of ideas for improvement are detailed in the report for the Committee to consider if they wish to take forward.

Background

1. Work programme setting:

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee can review or scrutinise any issues relating to health or social care as they affect the population of Wokingham Borough. With such a wide remit it is therefore important that agendas and the work programme are focused.

Some councils have used ‘scrutiny cafes’ when developing their work programmes.

Under this approach Committee members meet with partner organisations and service providers such as Healthwatch and local NHS Trusts in mixed groups. The partner organisations highlight their upcoming work, challenges, priorities and any anticipated risks. Members could explore the contribution that the Committee could make.

This approach can help increase buy in to the Committee’s work programme by partners.

1a. Proposed action: When looking to develop the Committee’s work programme for the new municipal year, consideration be given to holding a scrutiny café event with partner organisations and local service providers.

In order to maximise resources and value added, consideration should be given to

holding a joint scrutiny café event with the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, Children’s Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1b. Proposed action: Liaise with the relevant Executive Members and Chairmen of other overview and scrutiny committees to ascertain their likely priorities for the forthcoming year and consider where the Committee may be able to add value. It is important that the Committee prioritises the work where can add the most value.

2. Health and Wellbeing Board:

As the Committee with responsibility for health scrutiny the priorities and programmes of the Health and Wellbeing Board are subject to scrutiny primarily by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee receives quarterly updates from the Board on its work.

Proposed Action: To further assist the Committee in its scrutiny of the Board, minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meetings to be circulated to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee members. This will also help reduce duplication of work between the two committees and ensure that the work programmes are complementary.

3. Presentations from the NHS:

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee regularly receive presentations from sections of the NHS. In order to receive the appropriate information at the meetings and to target the presentations accordingly, Members’ questions to be provided to presenters prior to the meeting.

Proposed action: So far as possible to provide Members’ questions to presenters prior to the meeting in order to better target presentation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
N/A

Cross-Council Implications

N/A

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2
N/A

List of Background Papers
N/A

Contact Madeleine Shopland	Service Democratic Services
Telephone No 0118 974 6319	Email madeleine.shopland@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 23.08.16	Version No. 1

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