

Agenda Item 9.

TITLE	Work Programme 2021/22
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 16 June 2021
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Graham Ebers, Deputy Chief Executive

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Effective Overview and Scrutiny helps to improve services, holds decision makers to account and engages with local communities. In so doing it helps to demonstrate that the Council and other public service providers are open and transparent and are delivering high quality, value for money services.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to:

- 1) review its work programme for 2021/22 (Annex A);
- 2) prioritise items in the work programme and make an initial allocation of items to forthcoming meetings;
- 3) consider any other potential items for inclusion in the work programme for 2021/22;
- 4) note that additional items can be included in the work programme during the year.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Effective work programming is a Member-led process aimed at shortlisting and prioritising issues of community concern together with issues arising out of the Community Vision and Corporate Delivery Plan and major policy or service changes. It aims to:

- reflect local needs and concerns;
- prioritise topics for scrutiny which have the most impact or benefit;
- involve local residents and stakeholders;
- be flexible enough to respond to new or urgent issues.

Each year the Committee approves work programmes for itself and the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Recent discussions have indicated the need for the work programming process to be more robust and for improved monitoring during the year.

As this is the Committee's first meeting in the 2021/22 Municipal Year, the list of work programme items is attached for consideration and prioritisation.

Background

An effective Overview and Scrutiny function is underpinned by robust work programming. Effective work programming lays the foundations for targeted scrutiny of issues of local importance. It helps to ensure that Overview and Scrutiny adds value and makes a difference.

At its meeting on 23 March 2021 the Committee agreed the list of items to be included in its work programme for 2021/22 (Annex A). The Committee is now requested to prioritise the list of items and make an initial allocation of items to the following meetings:

- 7 July 2021
- 20 September 2021
- 18 October 2021
- 17 November 2021
- 11 January 2022
- 23 February 2022
- 17 March 2022

Each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees is carrying out a similar exercise and is inviting the relevant Executive Members to attend a meeting to discuss priorities over the year ahead. The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive have been invited to attend the Management Committee's meeting on 7 July 2021.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the Covid-19 crisis. It is, therefore, imperative that Council resources are focussed on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	0	NA	NA
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	0	NA	NA
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	0	NA	NA

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
None

Cross-Council Implications

Effective Overview and Scrutiny helps to drive service improvement, policy development and the achievement of value for money for the Borough's residents.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Due regard has been given to Council's Public Sector Equality Duty. The issues scrutinised during 2021/22 will raise the profile of Overview and Scrutiny for residents across the Borough, including residents with protected characteristics as defined under the Equality Act 2010. The aim is to achieve better/fairer outcomes and increased value for money for residents.

Climate Emergency – The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and is committed to playing as full a role as possible – leading by example as well as by exhortation – in achieving a carbon neutral Wokingham Borough by 2030

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee is acting as a "critical friend" to the Council's Climate Emergency activities through the work of the Climate Emergency Task & Finish Group.

List of Background Papers

None

Contact Neil Carr	Service Resources and Assets
Telephone No 0118 974 6000	Email neil.carr@wokingham.gov.uk
Date 7 June 2021	Version No. 1.0

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

1.	Development of the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes and coordination of the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees
2.	Discussions with the Council Leader and Chief Executive to identify future priorities and monitor performance against priorities and targets – July 2021
3.	WBC response to the pandemic – including Green Recovery, co-produced Anti-Poverty Strategy and partnership working to tackle poverty
4.	Scrutinising the underpinning priorities and KPIs for the Corporate Delivery Plan 2020/24 and the Quarterly Performance Management Reports - Quarterly
5.	Scrutinising the Council's Continuous Improvement Programme – including post Covid-19 organisation of the Council
6.	Scrutinising the implications of Climate Emergency for the Borough through the Climate Emergency Task and Finish Group – June 2021
7.	Scrutinising progress on the Local Plan Update and the Five Year Land Supply
8.	Scrutinising delivery of affordable housing across the Borough
9.	Scrutinising the Council's Economic Development Strategy and the impact of the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
10.	Scrutinising the Council's compliance with the Equality Act 2010 – implementation of the Equality Plan and Inclusion – access to services
11.	Scrutinising the impact of Brexit on the Borough and Council services
12.	Scrutinising the Council's emerging Waste Strategy and Recycling (green sacks), Food Waste service, Green Waste and the new Street Cleansing contract
13.	Scrutinising the break-up of the shared Public Protection Partnership (PPP) and re-establishment of a WBC service – transition and service impact
14.	Scrutinising the improvement plan for the WBC website and improvement to service delivery channels – roll-out of Broadband and inclusive services
15.	Scrutinising issues relating to Unauthorised Traveller Encampments
16.	Scrutinising the Council's role in Tree Protection through a Task and Finish Group – July 2021
17.	Scrutinising the Council's emerging Tree Strategy – later in 2021/22

18.	Scrutinising the Council's approach to Air Quality management across the Borough (joint item with HOSC)
19.	Scrutinising the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (new legislation) – later in 2021/22
20.	Monitoring progress against actions agreed in Motions approved by Council
21.	Approving the annual Overview and Scrutiny reports to Council
22.	Undertaking Call-In reviews of Executive decisions as necessary
23.	Reviewing the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny function and the underpinning support and training provided for Officers and Members

This page is intentionally left blank