

TITLE	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 18 July 2023
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) consider the Committee's Work Programme for 2023/24 – Annex A;
- 2) consider the proposed allocation of Scrutiny items suggested by residents and Town & Parish Councils – Annex B;
- 3) note that additional items can be included in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes 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.

The Committee is requested to comment of its work programme and the work programmes for the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees – Annex A.

The Committee is also reminded that residents and Town/Parish Councils submitted suggestions for inclusion in the 2023/24 work programmes. These suggestions are set out at Annex B together with proposals for consideration by relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees or specific services.

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 2023/24 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 has acted as a "critical friend" to the Council's Climate Emergency activities through the work of the Climate Emergency Task & Finish Group. In 2022 the Committee established a new Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a specific focus on scrutinising the delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

List of Background Papers

None

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