

*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT	AGENDA ITEM No.
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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER**

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The Committee’s work programme for 2015/16.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to consider and comment on its work programme.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To enable the Committee to plan its work effectively.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

5.1 None.

6. FORWARD PLAN

6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

7.1 The Task and Finish Group on the Quality of Council Reports has been delayed due to discussions about changes to the operation of task and finish groups; and members’ availability. It will begin shortly, and a report should be ready for the Committee’s meeting in March.

7.2 The Task and Finish Group on the Council’s Approach to Managing Larger Projects will start early in the new year. A report should be ready for the Committee’s meeting in June or July.

8. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 The work programme for the Committee’s meetings is attached at **Appendix A**. The Committee is invited to consider this in conjunction with the Forward Plan at **Appendix B**.

8.2 The schedule for Executive Members to attend is:

- January – Cllr Hunter
- March – Cllr Needham
- June – Cllr Lovewell

8.3 Normally Executive Members give an overview of the services in their portfolio, current and future projects, performance data, budgets, risks and future plans. In the case of Cllr Hunter's portfolio, the Committee has also expressed an interest in hearing about Hitchin Town Hall, community halls generally and the review of the Council's policies on grants. The Committee is invited to consider whether there are any particular items they would like Cllr Hunter to address.

8.4 The Committee may also wish to consider whether to invite Cllr Hone to attend as his portfolio of Finance and IT is mostly (but not entirely) the responsibility of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None.

10. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

11. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1 October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5 April 2011. There is a general duty, described below, that public bodies must meet, and this is underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.

12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions: give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no social value implications arising from this report.

14. APPENDICES

14.1 Appendix A – Programme for Committee Meetings

14.1 Appendix B – Forward Plan for 6 November 2015

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.