

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
22 MARCH 2016**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

19

**TITLE OF REPORT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY OFFICER**

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The Committee's work programme for 2016/17.

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. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

7.1 The Committee will have discussed the effectiveness of its operations in 2015/16 when it considers its annual report to Council elsewhere on the agenda. This in turn will affect how the Committee will operate next year and which items it will wish to consider at its next meeting in June and beyond.

7.2 At the moment, the following items are scheduled for its meeting in June:

- Executive Member attendance – Cllr Lovewell;
- Outline Business Case for a joint waste contract with East Herts District Council;
- Corporate Plan 2017/18;
- Regular items – RIPA and performance indicators.

7.3 If the Committee wishes to continue with its current approach to Executive Members and overview, Cllr Hone will complete the cycle of attendees in July with Cllr Burt beginning the next cycle in September.

8. TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

8.1 The Report of the Task and Finish Group on the **Quality of Council Reports** is on the Committee's agenda this evening and will be considered by Cabinet in June.

8.2 The Task and Finish Group on the **Council's Approach to Managing Larger Projects** should take place from April to June and a report should be ready for the Committee's meeting in July or September.

8.3 The Task and Finish Group after this will look at **Recharges and Value for Money**.

8.4 In previous meetings, the Committee has also indicated that it may wish to look at the following topics as future task and finish groups:

- a review of NHDC's Document Centre;
- keeping North Herts tidy;
- balancing cost savings against possible environmental impacts;
- Section 106 Agreements.

8.5 A number of issues were highlighted by the review of Council reports which were outside the scope of the review. The Committee may wish to consider picking some or all of them up in future. The issues included:

- Local policy and operational changes being made through over-arching strategies like the Medium Term Financial Strategy with little visibility;
- The unsuitability of the Council's decision making process for some of its faster moving services;
- Using reports and the Committee system to avoid making decisions and taking responsibility for them;
- The process of bringing reports to Cabinet (and other Committees) could be very time consuming;
- The Council's management of risk.

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 – Forward Plan for 4 March 2016

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Task and Finish Group Report on the Quality of Council Reports
16.2 Task and Finish Group on the Quality of Council Reports: Background Papers