

<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>4 MARCH 2015</b>
<b>WORK PROGRAMME WORKSHOP 2015/16</b>
<b>REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>

1. **Purpose**

To identify potential topics of scrutiny for 2015/16.

2. **Action required**

**To consider potential topics for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels for 2015/16.**

3. **Background information**

3.1 One of the main roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is setting, managing and co-ordinating the overall programme of scrutiny work.

This includes:

- mapping out an initial programme for scrutiny at the start of the municipal year
- monitoring progress against the programme throughout the year, and making amendments as required
- evaluating the impact of scrutiny activity and using lessons learnt to inform future decisions about scrutiny activity.

3.2 Colleagues have collated a series of topics that may potentially be of interest to councillor members. Topics are based on following overarching themes:

- **Major Programmes**
  - Potential areas of policy interest and programme development during 2014/15
- **Access and Learning**
  - Potential areas for better understanding of School Organisation in 2015/16
- **Commercialism**
  - Changing management/culture approaches and attitudes for ALL services to be more 'business-like';
  - Trading services - extending delivery of council services to other LAs/organisations
- **Children in Care**
  - Understanding of the demands on the service and the challenges ahead.

3.3 Other areas for note include welfare and the way citizens cases are handled and energy services including the growth of sustainable resources.

3.4

<b>Schedule for Overview and Scrutiny Workshops - 5th March 2014</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>
<b>14:00</b> <b>14:10</b>	Welcome and Opening	Councillor Brian Parbutt
<b>14:10</b> <b>-15:10</b>	Workshop A: Major Programmes	Robert Caswell, Programme Manager
	Workshop B: Access and Learning	Nick Lee, Head of Access and Learning
	Workshop C: Commercialism	Ken Lyon, Programme Manager and Andrew Hedgecock, Development Consultant
	Workshop D: Children in Care	Steve Comb, Head of Children in Care
<b>15:10</b> <b>-</b> <b>15:30</b>	Group Discussion and Decision Making	
<b>15:30</b>	Finish	

3.5 In setting the programme for scrutiny activity, the Committee should aim for an outcome-focused work programme that has clear priorities and is matched against the resources available to deliver the programme. It is intended to hold fewer, but more in depth reviews which will enable panels to explore and challenge more.

**4. List of attached information**

The following information can be found in the appendices to this report:

**Appendix 1** – items already agreed by the Committee

**Appendix 2** – List of possible items for consideration

**5. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information**

None

**6. Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

None

7. **Wards affected**

Citywide

8. **Contact information**

Contact Colleagues

Rav Kalsi

Senior Governance Officer

[Rav.kalsi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk](mailto:Rav.kalsi@nottinghamcity.gov.uk)

0115 8763759

## Appendix 1

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda - List of topics for 'overview' items

Following the Committee schedule in 2014/15, the following items have already been identified and agreed by the Committee to be considered in 2015/16.

Date of meeting TBC	Focus
	<b>Citizen First/Customer Access Programme Implementation</b> – progress and what difference is this making to citizens? (last attended 8 January 2014)
	<b>Good to Great Operational Plan</b> – update on progress following Committee consideration on in November 2014.
	<b>Nottingham Growth Plan</b> – update on strategic aims of plan and growth projections for 2015/16. Last attended in December 2014.
	<b>Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and actions arising from Ofsted inspection in May 2014</b> – annual report to be considered, including update on authority's response to Ofsted inspection in May 2014. Last attended in January 2015.
	<b>Flood Risk Mitigation Strategy</b> – Update on NCC's role as Lead Authority and its objectives for 2015/16. Last attended in February 2015.
	<b>Council Plan</b> – following approval of Council's objectives in May 2015, opportunity to scrutinise Council's aims and objectives for next 4 years.

**2015/16 long-list of possible future items for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and/or Scrutiny Review Panels**

<p><b>ANNUAL UPDATE ON PUPIL ATTAINMENT,</b> Governance and the role of councillors (arising from discussions being held at OSC on 8 October 2014)</p>
<p><b>THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET PROCESS</b> New scrutiny councillors will need to have training on how to effectively scrutinise the Council's budget process prior to scheduling this item after the new Council is elected and members are appointed.  (Previously an SRP was carried out in November 2011 on the budget consultation process used by the Council)</p>
<p><b>FUEL POVERTY</b> What actions are being taken by the Council to support its citizens who in fuel poverty since the Scrutiny Review Panel published its recommendations in 2011?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• focus on enabling citizens to reduce their energy bills through insulation schemes</li> <li>• the development of the Council's energy company</li> <li>• the pilot being run by Nottingham City Homes and Experian to enable tenants to develop a credit score by using the rent account data. This should enable tenants to move from pre-payment meters and access better energy tariffs with energy companies</li> </ul>
<p><b>HOUSING IN THE CITY</b> How is the Council addressing the issue of creating family housing and social/affordable housing Given the census data showing families moving out of city to find suitable family housing?</p>
<p><b>COMMERCIALISM</b> With significant budgetary pressures expected for local government until 2019/20 how can Nottingham City Council engender a 'commercial culture' to help manage these pressures? How can we maximise the benefits of grants/charitable funding for the city?</p>
<p><b>DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, EXPLORING TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN NOTTINGHAM CITY</b> Understanding our changing population and potential implications to service delivery. Need to explore the changes in demography in Nottingham and how this will impact on : The ageing population; Council services; Health Services etc.</p>
<p><b>FE COLLEGES</b> - How far is Nottingham City Council supporting Nottingham's Further Education (FE) colleges in order to equip young people with the right skills for local employment?</p>
<p><b>IT</b> - How is the Council ensuring its IT infrastructure is fit for purpose and meets the requirements of citizens, colleagues and councillors?</p>
<p><b>TOURISM</b> – what is the Council doing to make Nottingham a tourist destination of choice and how does it know what citizens and tourists want?</p>

**STAFF ENGAGEMENT** – how can the councillors be sure that colleagues are fully engaged with changes in work practices (commercialism) and need for leaner cost efficient services and structural changes (Good to Great). How are staff morale being measured and their views being sought? When was the last staff questionnaire and when is the next one due? What lessons have been learnt? Are these changes and austerity measures impacting on staff retention?

**FIXED ODDS GAMBLING** – a recent article in the Nottingham Post highlighted research carried out by the Campaign for Fairer Gambling, gamblers in Nottingham spent £40,896,139 on the machines. Nottingham is amongst the 55 most deprived English boroughs which lost £470m on the gaming machines last year, against £231m in the 115 most affluent areas in the country.

**CREDIT UNIONS** - An effective way of addressing citizen's increasing use of pay day lenders?