

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
9 MARCH 2016
PROGRAMME FOR SCRUTINY 2016/17 – WORKSHOP SESSION
REPORT OF HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

1 Purpose

1.1 To identify potential topics of Overview and Scrutiny for 2016/17.

2 Action required

2.1 To consider potential topics for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Scrutiny Review Panels for 2016/17. Members of the Committee are asked to come to the Committee with suggestions for review during 2016/17.

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 Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function and can help influence work on issues of local importance. 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.

3.3 Councillor Brian Parbutt, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny and Councillor Ginny Klein, Chair of Health Scrutiny, have both sought input from all elected members at Nottingham City Council on potential topics for inclusion on the work programme for 2016/17. Responses will be collated and presented to the Committee to consider.

3.4 To enable an effective work programming session, it is proposed that discussion focusses on the following four themes (although discussion is not restricted to these areas):

- Transformation and Partnerships
- Environment and Regeneration
- Policy development

- Public impact & Performance management

4 List of attached information

- 4.1 **Appendix 1** – items already agreed by the Committee
- 4.2 **Appendix 2** – List of possible items for consideration, including suggestions from councillors.

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

- 5.1 None.

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

- 6.1 Overview and Scrutiny work programme workshop 2015/16, report 4 March 2015.

7 Wards affected

- 7.1 Citywide

8 Contact information

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Appendix 1

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

The following items have already been identified and agreed by the Committee to be considered in 2016/17.

Date of meeting TBC	Focus
	Deprivation in Nottingham
	Crime and Drugs Partnership and Police Commissioner update – previously considered in February 2016, opportunity to hear from newly elected PCC on priorities.
	Neighbourhood Strategy – allied to the Nottingham Growth Plan which was considered in December 2015.
	Nottingham City Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report and actions arising from Ofsted inspection in May 2014 – annual report to be considered, including update on authority's response to Ofsted inspection in May 2014. Last attended in November 2015.
	Flood Risk Mitigation Strategy – Update on NCC's role as Lead Authority and its objectives for 2016/17. Last attended in February 2015.
	Customer Access Programme – An update on progress in delivering great customer services, last attended in January 2015.
	Portfolio Holder for Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration – Portfolio holder to report on progress of key themes this year and management of budget for particular portfolio.
	Portfolio Holder for Jobs, Growth and Transport – Portfolio holder to report on progress of key themes this year and management of budget for particular portfolio.
	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing – Portfolio holder to report on progress of key themes this year and management of budget for particular portfolio.
	Portfolio Holder for Energy and Sustainability – Portfolio holder to report on progress of key themes this year and management of budget for particular portfolio.
	Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture – Portfolio holder to report on progress of key themes this year and management of budget for particular portfolio.
	Portfolio Holder for Community Services – Portfolio holder to report on progress of key themes this year and management of budget for particular portfolio.
	Portfolio Holder for Strategic Regeneration – Portfolio holder to report on progress of key themes this year and management of budget for particular portfolio.

2016/17 long-list of possible future items for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and/or Scrutiny Review Panels

TRANSFORMATION & PARTNERSHIPS	ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION
<p>THE COUNCIL'S BUDGET PROCESS 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.</p> <p>COMMERCIALISM 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>DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES, EXPLORING TRENDS AND CHALLENGES IN NOTTINGHAM CITY 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>AIR QUALITY A closer look at air pollution and air quality in the City, focussing on the work taking place with partners to develop and implement air quality actions to improve air quality.</p> <p>FRACKING A closer inspection on what fracking in Nottinghamshire would mean to Nottingham citizens. Currently, there is an applicant seeking planning permission from Nottinghamshire County Council to undertake exploration for shale gas.</p>

POLICY DEVELOPMENT	PUBLIC IMPACT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
<p>CONSULTATION How effective are they and are they always cost-effective? How does the Council plan to improve engagement and participation by more residents?</p> <p>HOUSING IN THE CITY 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>IT - How is the Council ensuring its IT infrastructure is fit for purpose and meets the requirements of citizens, colleagues and councillors?</p> <p>TOURISM – what is the Council doing to make Nottingham a tourist destination of choice and how does it know what citizens and tourists want?</p> <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?</p> <p>DEVOLUTION / COMBINED AUTHORITY</p> <p>INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING</p>	<p>PARKING ENFORCEMENT An assessment of officers' ability to enforce restrictions in the city.</p> <p>FUEL POVERTY 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"> • focus on enabling citizens to reduce their energy bills through insulation schemes • the development of the Council's energy company • 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 <p>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.</p> <p>CREDIT UNIONS - An effective way of addressing citizen's increasing use of pay day lenders?</p> <p>LIVING WAGE</p>