

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14 MARCH 2018
WORK PROGRAMME 2018/19 DEVELOPMENT
REPORT OF HEAD OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE

1 Purpose

1.1 To identify potential topics for the Committee to consider in 2018/19.

2 Action required

2.1 Members of the Committee are asked to come to the Committee with suggestions for reviews during 2018/19.

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 an important element 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-focussed work programme that has clear priorities and is matched against the resources available to deliver the programme.

3.3 For the 2018/19 municipal year it is proposed that the Committee consider a topic per meeting, leaving capacity to extend reviews where necessary, consider emerging issues, and attendance by Portfolio Holders to discuss Council Plan performance.

4 List of attached information

4.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference.

4.2 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 None.

7 Wards affected

7.1 All.

8 Contact information

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference

- (a) To set, manage and co-ordinate the overview and scrutiny work programme to ensure all statutory roles and responsibilities accorded to the overview and scrutiny function, with the exception of health scrutiny, are fulfilled, including the ability to:
 - i. hold local decision-makers, including the Council's Executive, to account for their decisions, action and performance;
 - ii. review policy and contribute to the development of new policy and the strategy of the Council and other local decision-makers where it impacts on Nottingham residents;
 - iii. explore any matters affecting Nottingham and/ or its residents;
 - iv. make reports and recommendations to relevant local agencies with respect to the delivery of their functions, including the Council and its Executive;
- (b) to maintain an overview of key strategic issues relevant to Nottingham and its residents to inform decisions about the work programme so that it is focused on, and adds value by the examination of, issues of local importance and concern;
- (c) to monitor the effectiveness of the overview and scrutiny work programme and the impact of outcomes from overview and scrutiny activity, including the outcomes of review panels;
- (d) to work with other scrutiny committees, to support effective delivery of a co-ordinated overview and scrutiny work programme.
- (e) to establish a sub-committee known as the Call-In Panel to meet as required to consider call-in requests in accordance with the Council's Call-In Procedure;
- (f) to commission time-limited review panels (no more than 1 panel at any one time) to carry out a review of a matter within its remit. Commissioning includes setting the remit, initial timescale and size of membership to meet the needs of the review to be carried out. Such review panels will be chaired by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee;
- (g) to consider requests for Councillor calls for action;
- (h) to receive petitions in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme;
- (i) to commission separate policy briefings to inform councillors about current key issues relevant to Nottingham, to aid decisions about the future overview and scrutiny work programme and prepare Councillors to undertake overview and scrutiny work that has already been commissioned;
- (j) to co-opt people from outside the Council to sit on the Committee or

any review panels it commissions, to support effective delivery of the work programme.

The Committee has 14 members. Membership must not include members of the Executive Board. The Committee is politically balanced, with allocation of seats between political groups determined on a year by year basis.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2018/19 Work Programme **Possible Items for Consideration**

Listed below are some possible issues for scrutiny as a starting point for discussion. Councillors may wish to propose other issues at, or following, the meeting.

It is likely that additional issues will emerge during the year, and the work programme needs to be flexible to respond to these.

Regular issues for scrutiny

Every year the following items need to be included in the work programme, and it is proposed to schedule them accordingly for 2018/19:

- scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Infrastructure and Communications to focus on performance against Council Plan priorities;
- scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration to focus on performance against Council Plan priorities;
- scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture to focus on performance against Council Plan priorities;
- scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder for Business, Education and Skills to focus on the Business performance against Council Plan priorities;
- scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder for Community and Customer Services to focus on performance against Council Plan priorities;
- scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder for Energy and Sustainability to focus on performance against Council Plan priorities;
- scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Housing and Heritage to focus on performance against Council Plan priorities;
- scrutiny of the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services and Local Transport to focus on performance against Council Plan priorities.

The Portfolio Holders for Early Intervention and Early Years, and Business Education, and Skills (with a focus on Education) performance against Council Plan priorities will be scrutinised by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee. The Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health's performance against Council Plan priorities will be scrutinised by the Health Scrutiny Committee.

Possible issues for scrutiny

The following potential issues have been identified by the Committee during previous discussions, councillor suggestions, and current issues. Councillors may wish to propose other issues at the meeting. The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to include any of these on the work programme for 2018/19 and, if so, discuss potential focus/key lines of enquiry:

- (a) crime and policing in Nottingham – to continue the review commenced in the 2017/18 municipal year and monitor the progress of the new city division;

- (b) homelessness – to establish the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act which comes into force on 3 April which will require more focus on prevention;
- (c) planning enforcement – exploring the effectiveness of the planning enforcement process;
- (d) fuel poverty - follow up on what actions are being taken by the Council and its partners to support citizens in fuel poverty since the Scrutiny Review Panel published its recommendations in 2011;
- (e) credit unions - exploring how the Council interacts with them, the benefits of using them and whether they are an effective way of addressing the increasing use of payday lenders;
- (f) the Crime and Drugs Partnership - scrutiny has a statutory duty to review the work of the Partnership.