

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

MEMBERS: Councillors; Elizabeth Smaje (Chair), Bill Armer, Andrew Cooper, Hannah McKerchar and Shabir Pandor

SUPPORT: Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
THEME / ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES / ACTIONS
1. Leader's Priorities 2023/24	The Leader will set out her portfolio priorities for 2023/24 and later in the municipal year will give an update	<p><u>1 August 2023</u> Deferred until 24th October</p> <p><u>24th October 2023</u> The Leader attended to set out her four core priorities and answered questions from Members. It was agreed that she be invited to return, at an appropriate time, to give an update on progress. It was also noted that the Environment and Climate Change Scrutiny Panel would be looking at climate change and suggested that the points raised on this issue be taken forward by the Lead Member as appropriate.</p>
2. Corporate and Finance & Regeneration Portfolio Holders' Priorities 2023/24	<p>The Portfolio Holders will set out their priorities for 2023/24 and later in the municipal year will give an update.</p> <p><i>Regular meetings take place between the Portfolio Holders and the Chair of Scrutiny to identify any issues where scrutiny may be able to add value.</i></p>	<p><u>1 August 2023</u> Priorities for the Corporate Portfolio were presented, questions answered and comments made.</p> <p>The Portfolio Holders attend meetings of the Committee when items within their remit are discussed.</p>

<p>3. Council Financial Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Financial Management Reports. • Financial management areas of interest to scrutiny: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy Budgets (August) - MTFP Update (September) - Cost of Living Programme Update (October) - Housing Revenue Account (December) <p><i>Regular meetings take place between the Service Director – Finance and the Chair of Scrutiny to provide an overview and identify any issues where scrutiny is considered important.</i></p>	<p><u>20th June 2023</u> Regular updates requested in line with financial reporting timescales, with additional updates in-between the quarterly reporting cycle to allow for scrutiny of any particular areas of financial concern.</p> <p><u>1st August 2023</u> Presentation in respect of a review of the Council's arrangements and budgets for energy. Questions answered and comments made.</p> <p><u>5th September 2023</u> Position statement as at Quarter 2, it was requested that further information including the achievability of savings and detail of the re-profiling of the Capital Plan be provided to Members of the Committee.</p> <p><u>24th October 2023</u> The presentation provided an update on the work being undertaken as part of the Council's Cost of Living Programme, with questions and comments being invited from Members. It was recommended that the resulting comments be taken on board in future work on this issue.</p> <p><u>5th December 2023</u> The Service Director, Finance provided an update on the current position, with reference to the Quarter 2 2023-24 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report, and responded to Members' questions and comments.</p> <p><u>9th January 2024</u> The Committee received a presentation on the latest position in respect of the Housing Revenue Account. The Portfolio Holder, and the Service Director and Finance Director, Homes and Neighbourhoods responded to Members' questions and comments.</p>
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4. Performance Management	Scrutiny of the latest performance management reports.	<p><u>5th September 2023</u></p> <p>Recommended that the issue of transparency of performance management information be taken into account in the consideration of the future approach.</p>
5. IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for digitisation • Replacement of telephony system • Security 	<p><u>27th February 2024</u></p> <p>The Committee received an update in respect of the Technology Strategy 2020-2025</p>
6. Communications	Pre-decision scrutiny of Communications Strategy	<p><u>5th December 2023</u></p> <p>The Communications Strategy Update 2024 was presented. The Committee requested that their comments be taken into account in taking the strategy forward. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of promotion and support for the work undertaken in particular places and wards. • The importance of the continuation of the use of more traditional methods of communication, so that those who did not use social media were not excluded. • Consideration be given to strengthening communication in respect of providing updates further to a decision. • The explanation for the retention of the mission, from the previous version, being reflected within the strategy document.
7. Inclusion and Diversity	<p>Monitoring work, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion and Diversity Strategy Pre-decision scrutiny of the revised strategy • Inclusion and Diversity Annual Report 	Chair of Scrutiny updated throughout 2023/24

8. Council Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny in respect of the development, and content, of the latest version of the Council Plan	<p><u>20th June 2023 – informal</u> Comments taken on board in the development of the plan.</p> <p><u>9th January 2024 – informal</u> Comments and recommendations taken forward and reported to Cabinet (13th February 2024) and Council (6th March 2024)</p>
9. Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan (Crime and Disorder) and Domestic Abuse Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual scrutiny of the Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan in accordance with statutory requirement under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. (Community Safety Partnerships have a duty to develop a strategic plan to address multi-agency issues affecting quality of life for residents including crime and anti-social behaviour.) <i>(2022 – 2027 Plan endorsed by Cabinet 21.9.23 and adopted by Council 12.10.22)</i> Kirklees Domestic Abuse Strategy – annual review. <i>(Current strategy 2022 to 2027 – adopted by Cabinet 17.1.23)</i> 	<p><u>1st August 2023</u> Update provided re issues raised at the meeting on 6-2-23</p> <p><u>26th March 2024</u></p>
10. Corporate Safeguarding Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of Policy <i>(adopted by Cabinet 8th March 2022, Council 13th July 2022)</i> Further to the rollout of the refreshed policy; how it has worked in practice, the outputs, and feedback on training (OSMC 15-2-22) 	Chair of Scrutiny updated throughout 2023/24
11. Local Flood Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Review of the Council’s Flood Risk Management Plan, including progress against the Action Plan. Pre-decision scrutiny of revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (OSMC 7-3-23) 	<p><u>5th December 2023</u> The Council’s new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was brought to the Committee, for pre-decision scrutiny, prior to its submission to the Cabinet for approval in early 2024. The Committee made a number of comments and recommended that reference within the strategy to the work and engagement undertaken with and alongside other local authorities in respect of surface water should be strengthened.</p>

		<p><u>27th February 2024</u></p> <p>The Committee considered the annual review of activity in respect of local flood risk management, including presentations in relation to a pilot Mental Health and Wellbeing project and the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning Team in responding to events of severe weather. An outline of the action plan for the next twelve months was also given.</p> <p>The Committee welcomed the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project, as an excellent initiative, and recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts be made to raise the awareness of all Councillors in respect of the benefits and possibilities in relation to the use of property level protection against flooding. • Engagement with Yorkshire Water be pursued at a regional level to examine the potential to reduce contamination spills from combined sewer overflows in severe weather. • Consideration be given to providing information, in the event of severe weather, to ensure that people who may be experiencing flooding for the first time are aware of who to contact for advice and assistance.
<p>12. Kirklees Active Leisure</p>	<p>Scrutiny of the review taking a strategic approach to the future leisure centre offer provided by KAL, the not-for-profit charity that manages ten leisure facilities throughout Kirklees, and associated consultation</p>	<p><u>1st August 2023</u></p> <p>It was recommended that:</p> <p>(1) The views of the Committee be sought during the review consultation period and that the results of the analysis of the different models of operation be provided to Members of the Committee when available.</p> <p>(2) The importance of the links with health and wellbeing be acknowledged.</p> <p><u>5th December 2023</u></p> <p>The Committee received an update in respect of the consultation on the future offer in respect of the Leisure Centres and considered the report that was to be submitted to Cabinet on 12th December.</p>

A number of recommendations were put forward to the Cabinet, including:

(i) the importance of:

- Ensuring sustainability for the future and building headroom into the budget to respond to future challenges, such as a rise in energy costs.
- The development of a forward plan for future capital investment across all sites.
- Systems to ensure oversight by the Council and early identification of any future funding issues.
- Developing and building upon the relationships and partnerships that have been established with community groups and other stakeholders in order to; maximise the possibilities for external funding opportunities and fundraising, and explore all options in respect of the future model, including pricing structure.
- Effective communication with residents about the benefits of retaining the current partnership model and to ensure understanding of the issues and the implications of the proposals.
- Establishing a timetable for the establishment of the future model.
- The recognition that the facilities contribute to the health and wellbeing of the residents of Kirklees and have a positive impact in terms of social connectivity.

The Committee also:

- Acknowledged the significant response to the consultation and the work undertaken to analyse the responses
- Welcomed the proposed review to identify any lessons learned for future Council consultations.
- Recognised the benefits of fundraising by community groups being directed towards supporting capital projects.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That a future plan for physical activity across Dewsbury is to be developed and the feasibility of keeping dry-side facilities at Dewsbury Sports Centre will be explored, whilst balancing the sustainability of the whole of the model. It is recommended that timescales for this work should be put in place. - That Deighton Sports Arena will remain open, and continue to be operated by KAL, in the short term so that options to maintain community access to the facility can be explored. - That the position in respect of the revised treatment of VAT for leisure centres is to be explored. - The re-modelling of finances undertaken by KAL to increase income. <p><u>9th January 2024</u> Update provided in respect of Cabinet decision (12th December 2023)</p>
13. Procurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Challenges and future plans 	<p><u>9th January 2024</u> A detailed report which provided an update on procurement was considered. The Portfolio Holder and the Head of Procurement responded to members' questions and comments. It was requested that an update be presented to the Committee, further to the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023.</p>
14. Asset Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pre-decision scrutiny of Asset Management Strategy, including proposals for engagement 	<p><u>24th October 2023</u> The Committee received a report which provided a summary of the approach to property asset management, and the use of good practice in developing and bringing forward the Council's Corporate Property Strategy It was resolved that the strategy be brought back to the Committee for further consideration at an appropriate point.</p>

15. People Strategy/People Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact for/on transformation 	<p><u>9th January 2024</u></p> <p>The Committee received a report which provided an update on the implementation of the People Strategy including the work undertaken to date and the plans for the next phase. Feedback was sought from Members and it was noted that the points raised would be taken into account in the future delivery of the strategy.</p>
16. Overview of Scrutiny Work Programmes	<p>Maintain an overview of the Work Programmes of the four Panels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s • Environment and Climate • Growth and Regeneration • Health and Adult Social Care <p>and receive regular updates from Lead Members</p>	<p><u>1st August 2023</u></p> <p>Panel Work Programmes for 2023/24 endorsed.</p> <p><u>Lead Member Updates:</u></p> <p>Children and Health & Adult Social Care - 5th September 2023 Growth & Regeneration and Environment & Climate Change – 5th December 2023 Children and Health & Adult Social Care – 9th January 2024</p>
17. Social Isolation/Loneliness	<p>Scrutiny work in relation to social isolation and loneliness, with specific reference to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on evidence relating to young people. • Production of final report 	<p>OSMC Informal 26-3-24</p>
18. West Yorkshire Joint Services – Activity in Kirklees	<p>Director to attend to give members a briefing on the work being undertaken by WYJS with a focus on work in Kirklees by WYJSC</p>	<p><u>24th October 2023</u></p> <p>The Director of West Yorkshire Joint Services (WYJS) attended the meeting and gave a presentation about the work of the organisation, with a particular focus on work within Kirklees. A briefing note had been included with the agenda for the meeting which explained that WYJS delivered a number of shared services, including a number of statutory services, on behalf of the five West Yorkshire Councils.</p> <p>The Director was thanked for the presentation and it was requested that copies of the ‘Little Book of Big Scams’ be shared with the Committee.</p>

		<p><u>5th December 2023</u> Update given with a response to the questions put to the Director at the meeting on 24th October.</p>
<p>19. Mental Health Services for Older People – JOHSC Establishment</p>		<p><u>5th September 2023</u> Agreed that the nominations for Kirklees representation on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with Calderdale and Wakefield Councils, should be sought from the main political groups (Labour, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Green) on the basis of 1:1:1:1.</p>
LEAD MEMBER BRIEFING ISSUES		
THEME/ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	LEAD OFFICER/NOTES
1. Risk	Risk reports circulated to Members of OSMC for consideration prior to each meeting.	Briefings held with the Council's Head of Risk on regular basis in line with risk reporting schedule.
2. Performance Reporting	Performance reports circulated to Members of OSMC for consideration prior to each meeting	
3. Budget Engagement		LM Briefing 15-11-23
4. Innovative Working in Kirklees		LM briefing
5. Corporate Landlord Function	Challenges and future plans	LM Bfg 31-8-23
6. Challenges to Delivery		LM briefing tba
7. Grant Funding Distribution to Anchor Organisations	Update on contract, including locality plans to be shared	
8. Regional Working	<p>Including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The mechanics of how Kirklees is working with the WYMCA and the relationship between the two. - Funding streams and Kirklees approach 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How funding bids are considered - The project plan <p>To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with Kirklees Members of WYMCA Scrutiny Committees • Funding and Kirklees' approach 	
9. Primary Care Networks and Local Health Improvement	Approach to engagement and communication with Ward Councillors on arrangements that span more than one ward such as PCNs and schools as community hubs.	Information awaited re future PCN landscape (role of wider teams involved with primary care and development of place-based approach to health outcomes, CG&AC)
10. Armed Forces Covenant	Monitor the Council's work in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant.	<p><u>20th June 2023</u></p> <p>Committee noted the update on the work of the Kirklees Armed Forces Board, including the ongoing work with partner and voluntary organisations including the budget position, welcomed the work with housing services to help Armed Forces Personnel navigate the housing processes welcomed and recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A survey be developed to hear the voice and understand the need of Armed Services personnel locally - Discussions be undertaken with health organisations to allow the Council to understand how they are working with the Covenant. - Statistical information relating to the take up of e-learning training be provided in future updates to the Committee.
11. Data and Insight Strategy	Update	Discussed with PH/SD
12. Libraries Service	Update	<p>LM Briefing 25-9-23</p> <p>LM Bfg 1-2-24</p> <p>Informal OSMC 26-3-24</p>
13. Inclusion and Diversity		<p>LM Bfg 12/9/23</p> <p>LM Bfg 7-11-23</p>