

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25

MEMBERS: Councillors; Cahal Burke (Chair), Itrat Ali, Zarina Amin, Andrew Cooper and Jo Lawson

SUPPORT: Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer

FULL PANEL DISCUSSION		
THEME / ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	OUTCOMES / ACTIONS
1. Leader's Priorities 2024/25	The Leader will attend to set out her portfolio priorities for 2024/25.	<p><u>20 September 2024</u> The Leader set out her priorities for 2024/25 for the Committee's information. She would be invited to attend to update on progress at an appropriate point.</p> <p>Informal meetings with the Chair and the Leader take place on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year.</p>
2. Finance Portfolio Holder's Priorities 2024/25	The Portfolio Holder will attend to set out his priorities for 2024/25.	<p><u>20 September 2024</u> The Portfolio Holder set out his priorities for 2024/25 for the Committee's information. He would be invited to attend to update on progress at an appropriate point.</p> <p>Informal meetings with the Chair and the Portfolio Holder take place on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year.</p>
3. Corporate Portfolio Holder's Priorities 2024/25	The Portfolio Holder will attend to set out his priorities for 2024/25.	<p><u>20 September 2024</u> The Portfolio Holder set out his priorities for 2024/25 for the Committee's information. He would be invited to attend to update on progress at an appropriate point.</p> <p>Informal meetings with the Chair and the Portfolio Holder take place on a bi-monthly basis throughout the year.</p>

<p>4. Corporate Financial Management</p>	<p>To provide oversight of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Corporate Financial Monitoring Reports • Medium Term Financial Plan • Budget 2025/26 	<p><u>20 September 2024</u> Updates provided in respect of the Quarter 1 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report and the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p><u>13 December 2024</u> Update provided in respect of the Quarter 2 Corporate Financial Monitoring Report.</p> <p><u>17 January 2025</u> Pre-decision scrutiny of the draft budget: The Committee considered the draft budget proposals for 2025/26, taking a strategic approach focussing on the extent to which the budget proposals fit with the Council’s desired outcomes, the national picture, had taken account of engagement and evidence and addressed the challenges of delivery. Members made a number of comments and recommendations for consideration in taking the budget forward including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The improvements made in terms of the approach to pre-decision scrutiny were welcomed and that engagement with scrutiny be undertaken at the earliest possible stage of decision-making or policy formulation. • The proposals to support and assist communities to undertake activities and minimise barriers were welcomed. • Stressing the importance of ward budgets, and, whilst recognising the need for monitoring, recommending that a review of the complexity of the governance arrangements be undertaken. • The importance of the principle of developing resilience in the approach to budget development be highlighted. • Consideration be given to how the budget is presented, with the recommendation that additional detail should be provided for context and to help understanding of the
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5. Corporate Performance	To provide oversight of the Quarterly Performance Management Reports	<p><u>20 September 2024</u> Quarter 1 Report - Update provided to allow Lead Members to identify any issues for consideration by their Scrutiny Panel</p> <p><u>13 December 2024</u> Quarter2 Report - Update provided to allow Lead Members to identify any issues for consideration by their Scrutiny Panel</p> <p><u>4 April 2025</u> Quarter 3 report - Update provided to allow Lead Members to identify any issues for consideration by their Scrutiny Panel</p>
6. Corporate Risk	To provide oversight of the Quarterly Corporate Risk Reports	<p><u>20 September 2024</u> Quarter 1 Report - Update provided to allow Lead Members to identify any issues for consideration by their Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p><u>13 December 2024</u> Quarter 2 Report - Update provided to allow Lead Members to identify any issues for consideration by their Scrutiny Panel</p> <p><u>4 April 2025</u> Quarter 3 report - Update provided to allow Lead Members to identify any issues for consideration by their Scrutiny Panel</p>
7. Council Plan	Pre-decision scrutiny in respect of the latest version of the Council Plan	<p><u>17 January 2025</u> Pre-decision scrutiny of the Council Plan 2025/26.</p>

		<p>The Committee made a number of comments and recommendations for consideration in taking the Council Plan forward including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming the intention to undertake an in-depth review and recommending that it should more explicitly cover a longer timeframe than one year. • That, in light of third sector partners and local community organisations being able to access external funding that is not available to the Council but could be used to help achieve Council objectives, recommending that the enablement approach be further strengthened to support them to take advantage of such funding opportunities.
<p>8. Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan (Crime and Disorder) and Domestic Abuse Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual pre-decision scrutiny of the refresh of the Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan, in accordance with statutory requirement under Section 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. 	<p><u>4 April 2025</u> Deferred to next meeting to allow West Yorkshire police to attend.</p> <p><u>9 May 2025</u></p>
<p>9. Government Policy / Legislation</p>	<p>To maintain an overview of potential and forthcoming changes relevant to local government and to consider the potential impact on the Council at an early stage, with specific focus on any changes in respect of financial settlements and the approach to funding.</p>	<p><u>20 September 2024</u> Noted and Lead Members to identify any areas of interest for their Panel.</p> <p>Briefing Notes provided to Lead Members on an ongoing basis throughout the year.</p>
<p>10. Libraries and Customer Service</p>	<p><u>Libraries:</u> Pre-decision in respect of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation design • Early findings and implications for the model/strategy • Post-decision in respect of the plans for implementation 	<p><u>20 September 2024</u> For information presentation in respect of the proposed future delivery model for the Libraries Service and planned consultation noted. The Committee welcomed the positive engagement with scrutiny on this issue and noted the proposed arrangements for further consultation.</p>

	<p><u>Customer Service:</u> The Committee will review the information provided from the first stage of implementation of the integrated Libraries and Customer Services Centre functions in Dewsbury and Huddersfield, with a view to providing feedback in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning from the integrated approach to access information and implications for how citizens access services from the Council • Advise on what role other partners do, and need to, play in supporting people in communities with information, support, and advice <p>(This will include a visit to the Huddersfield Centre)</p>	<p><u>Informal – 1 November 2024</u> Re Consultation design and process</p>
<p>11. Corporate Safeguarding Policy</p>	<p>Update report following the rollout of the refreshed policy (adopted by Cabinet 8 March 2022 / Council 13 July 2022)</p>	<p><u>2nd August 2024</u> The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asked that the points raised be taken on board in the future development of this work. • Welcomed the Safeguarding Champion role as an excellent initiative, with the added value it provided being well illustrated by the examples given. • Requested that a progress update be placed on the Work Programme further to the Organisational Safeguarding Assessment in 2025.
<p>12. Inclusion and Diversity</p>	<p>Monitor work in relation to inclusion; including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-decision scrutiny of the revised Inclusion and Diversity Strategy. 	<p><u>2nd August 2024</u> The Committee asked that the points and feedback raised, including the recommendations set out below, be taken into account in taking the Inclusion and Diversity Strategy forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail should be provided in respect of the Key Performance Indicators, including the reporting mechanisms. • Reference should be made to the important role of Elected Members and how they could contribute and add value in terms of delivery of the objectives of the strategy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The statistics in respect of social isolation and loneliness and fuel poverty should be updated. <p>Note: The Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2024-27 was approved by Cabinet on 10th September 2024. The comments made by the Committee, and the amendments made in response, were detailed in the report to Cabinet.</p>
13. Final Report – Scrutiny of Social Connectivity in Kirklees	<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"> Submission of Final Report 	<p><u>20 September 2024</u></p> <p>The Committee received an Action Plan to respond to the recommendations in its report on social connectivity in Kirklees. The positive response to the recommendations from the Cabinet Member was welcomed.</p>
14. People Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress report in respect of Phase 3 and outcomes from Phase 2 Update re revised strategy 2025 onwards. 	<p><u>28 February 2025</u></p> <p>The Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended that its comments be taken into account in future delivery and the shaping of the next phase. Welcomed the approach in terms of the use of apprenticeships to address recruitment challenges in areas such as social work, and the positive impact of ‘Project Search’. Agreed to visit the Employee Health Care Service. Requested the provision of further information in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data in respect of the percentage of employees who have had an appraisal in the last twelve months and any areas where delivery is challenging. The next stage for mediation cases that have not achieved a positive outcome. <p><u>2 May 2025</u></p> <p>Visit to the Employee Health Care Service.</p>
15. Armed Forces Covenant	Update on the work of the Armed Forces Covenant Board	<u>9 May 2025</u>

16. Procurement	Report further to the implementation of the Procurement Act 2023 to provide an update in respect of how the work is progressing and an assessment of its impact.	<u>9 May 2025</u>
17. Opportunities	<p>How the Council seeks to identify opportunities for supporting outcomes, including relationships with local/regional/national partners, learning from other councils, and monitoring government activity.</p> <p>Overview of the work being undertaken in respect of the Council's external funding framework, including how opportunities for funding are identified (to include those in partnership) and the work to improve the way this is done.</p> <p>To cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horizon scanning opportunities • Examples of successes • How the Council works with partners through this process • How the Council is building relationships with key funders • Corporate coordination activity to ensure the above is efficient and effective 	<p><u>13 December 2024</u></p> <p>The Committee considered information in respect of the Council's approach and activities associated with identifying and pursuing partnership and funding opportunities to support the Council priorities.</p> <p>Lead Members made a number of comments for consideration by officers and undertook to support the 'think funding' mindset through ensuring that external funding possibilities were considered where appropriate and relevant to the issues being covered by their respective Panel.</p>
18. Tourism Strategy	Pre-Decision Scrutiny of New Strategy	<p><u>28 February 2025</u></p> <p>Background, current position and next steps with feedback invited from the Committee.</p> <p>The principles and objectives of the draft strategy were supported, and it was recommended that the comments made be taken into account in its further development.</p> <p>The opportunity to undertake pre-decision scrutiny at an early stage of development was welcomed and a further report requested following the public consultation.</p>
19. Corporate Peer Challenge – Outcome and Response	Pre-decision scrutiny of the Council's Action Plan to respond to the eight key recommendations made by the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge held in November 2024.	<p><u>Informal – 20 March 2025</u></p> <p>Comments made to be taken forward in development of the final Action Plan</p>

		<p><u>4 April 2025</u> Presentation on the Action Plan prior to submission to cabinet and Council. The Committee made a number of comments to be considered in delivery of the plan. Noted that a further report will be submitted to update the Committee on progress in Summer 2025.</p>
<p>20. Overview of Scrutiny Work Programmes</p>	<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><u>2nd August 2024</u> Initial Work programmes agreed.</p>

LEAD MEMBER BRIEFING ISSUES

THEME/ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	NOTES
Inclusive Economic Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny	This has been considered previously by the Growth and Regeneration Panel and the final strategy was considered by this Panel in December prior to submission to Cabinet.
Culture and Tourism Strategies	Pre-decision scrutiny of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture Strategy (10 year) • Tourism Strategy (3 year) 	Tourism Strategy – 28-2-25 Culture Strategy – TBC
Communications Strategy and Business Plan	Update on activity	2025/26 Work Programme
Technology Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on activity • Pre-decision scrutiny of revised strategy 	2025/26 Work Programme
Asset Management Strategy	Pre-decision scrutiny	Timescale TBC
Corporate Landlord	Overview of the operation of the Corporate Landlord function	Chair’s Briefing 18-10-24

