

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME 2025/26**

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

**SUPPORT: Sheila Dykes, Principal Governance and Democratic Engagement Officer**

<b>FULL PANEL DISCUSSION</b>		
<b>THEME / ISSUE</b>	<b>APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS</b>	<b>OUTCOMES / ACTIONS</b>
<b>1. Leader's Priorities 2025/26</b>	The Leader will attend to set out her portfolio priorities for 2025/26.	<p><u>11 July 2025</u> The Leader set out her priorities for 2025/26 and gave an update in respect of recent outcomes. She responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.</p> <p>It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a report on the work being done in respect of 'getting the basics right' be added to the work programme and it be recommended that this work should include a strong focus on effective and timely communication.</li> <li>- the Committee receive an update in respect of cyber security.</li> </ul> <p>Informal meetings with the Chair and the Leader take place throughout the year.</p>
<b>2. Finance Portfolio Holder's Priorities 2025/26</b>	The Portfolio Holder will attend to set out his priorities for 2025/26.	<p><u>11 July 2025</u> The Portfolio Holder set out his priorities for 2025/26 and gave an update in respect of recent outcomes. He responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.</p> <p>Informal meetings with the Chair and the Portfolio Holder take place throughout the year.</p>

<p><b>3. Corporate Portfolio Holder's Priorities 2025/26</b></p>	<p>The Portfolio Holder will attend to set out her priorities for 2025/26.</p>	<p><u>25 July 2025</u> The Portfolio Holder set out her priorities for 2025/26. She responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.</p> <p>The Committee requested that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An item in respect of the replacement of the Household Support Fund be placed on the Committee's Work Programme.</li> <li>- A visit be organised to see the work being undertaken by Project Search</li> </ul> <p>Informal meetings with the Chair and the Portfolio Holder take place throughout the year.</p>
<p><b>4. Corporate Financial Management</b></p>	<p>To provide oversight of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly Corporate Financial Monitoring Reports</li> <li>• Medium Term Financial Strategy</li> <li>• Budget 2026/27 - Pre-Decision Scrutiny</li> </ul>	<p><u>11 July 2025</u> The Committee was provided with a comprehensive update on the outturn for 2024/25. This facilitated Members to be aware of the current position and challenges and gave them the opportunity to put questions and offer challenge to the relevant Cabinet Member and Section 151 Officer. It also provided Lead Members with important background information to be taken into account, as appropriate, when considering issues within the remit of their Panel or to also them to pick up on any items within the remit of their Panel that may require further scrutiny</p> <p><u>12 September 2025</u> Update report on Quarter 1 2025/26. The Committee was taken through the detail of the current position and the revenue variances and pressures affecting each directorate; the Housing revenue Account (HRA); the Capital Plan and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the 'Safety Valve Agreement' Medium-Term Financial Strategy</p>

		<p>A presentation was given on the MTFS further to its consideration at Cabinet on 9<sup>th</sup> September and prior to its submission to Council on 17<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>The MTFS set out the financial framework for the Council's budget planning for 2026/27 to 2030/31.</p> <p>It was noted that the Government response to the Fair Funding Review was awaited and may impact on the figures.</p> <p>Members discussed the position in relation to the Council's contributions to the West Yorkshire Pension Fund and the ongoing consultation.</p> <p>It was noted that there would be a dedicated meeting of the Committee in January 2026 to facilitate engagement on the budget proposals for 2026/27.</p> <p><u>5 December 2025</u>  <u>16 January 2026</u> – Budget Proposals  <u>27 March 2026</u></p> <p>The Chair is briefed by the Service Director, Finance on a regular basis throughout the year.</p>
<p>5. <b>Corporate Performance</b></p>	<p>To provide oversight of the Quarterly Performance Management Reports</p>	<p><u>11 July 2025</u></p> <p>The Committee was provided with an update on the Quarter 4 Council Plan and Performance Report 2024/25 as part of the ongoing engagement on this issue. It provided the Committee with an overview of performance and outcomes and gave Members the opportunity to question and offer challenge to the relevant Cabinet Member and lead officers. Lead Members were also able to use this knowledge to identify any issues within the remit of their Panel that may require further scrutiny.</p> <p><u>12 September 2025</u>  Update report on Quarter 1 2025/26.</p>

		<p>The Committee discussed; Education Health and Care Plans, fly tipping, early intervention and prevention in relation to adult social care, accessibility for customers and the use of temporary accommodation for the homeless.</p> <p>Further information was requested in relation to the Customer and Access Programme and this will be addressed as part of the item in respect of Transformation Priorities.</p> <p><u>5 December 2025</u> <u>27 March 2026</u></p>
6. <b>Corporate Risk</b>	To provide oversight of the Quarterly Corporate Risk Reports	<p><u>11 July 2025</u></p> <p>The Committee was provided with an update on the Quarter 4 Corporate Risk Report 2024/25 as part of its ongoing oversight of this issue. This gave the Committee an overview of this important area and the actions and mitigations being taken in each case. Members were able to question and offer challenge to the relevant Cabinet Member and lead officers. Lead Members were able to use this knowledge to take forward any issues within the remit of their Panel that may require further scrutiny.</p> <p><u>12 September 2025</u></p> <p>Update report on Quarter 1 2025/26.</p> <p>The Committee was advised:</p> <p>There had been minimal change since the last quarterly report. Of the amendments to the risks on the register including those added and removed.</p> <p>The Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change undertook to look at the issue of local area energy plans.</p> <p><u>5 December 2025</u> <u>27 March 2026</u></p>

7. <b>Council Plan</b>	Pre-decision scrutiny in respect of the latest version of the Council Plan	<u>5 December 2025 – Informal</u> <u>16 January 2026</u>
8. <b>Transformation Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bi-annual progress reports in respect of delivery of transformation projects and activities.</li> <li>• Lead Members will be invited to request briefings on the detail of those within their Panel’s remit where they consider this will assist their work.</li> </ul>	<u>5 December 2025</u>
9. <b>Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversight of Action Plan Implementation.</li> </ul>	<u>11 July 2025</u> A progress report was given in relation to the Council’s Action Plan to respond to the recommendations made by the LGA Peer Challenge in November 2024. The Committee had previously considered the Action Plan in advance of its approval by Cabinet. The Committee had welcomed the early engagement with Scrutiny on this issue and the progress made in implementation to date. It requested the submission of a further report following the LGA Progress Review in September 2025.  <u>5 December 2025</u>
10. <b>Kirklees Communities Partnership Plan (Crime and Disorder) and Domestic Abuse Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<u>27 February 2026</u>
11. <b>Government Policy / Legislation</b>	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	Briefing notes provided to Committee members in advance of the meetings in June, September, December 2025 and February 2026.

	any changes in respect of financial settlements and the approach to funding.	
<b>12. Customer Service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early learning from the ten integrated library hubs on how citizens can be supported and enabled to access the support and information they need, using a place-based approach, and how this will be used to plan for the future.</li> <li>• Raising awareness of, and the role of wider services and partners in promoting, the integrated hubs</li> <li>• How the service works with volunteers and how they are supported to build on their particular areas of interest.</li> </ul> <p>(Including a visit to the Huddersfield Centre)</p>	<u>13 February 2026</u>
<b>13. Corporate Safeguarding Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update report on progress further to the Organisational Safeguarding Assessment in 2025</li> </ul>	<u>14 November 2025</u>
<b>14. Social Connectivity in Kirklees</b>	Progress update in respect of Action Plan	<u>27 March 2026</u>
<b>15. Digital Strategy</b>	Pre-decision scrutiny	<u>Informal 27 February 2026</u>
<b>16. Tourism Strategy</b>	Pre-Decision Scrutiny of New Strategy (3 Year strategy)	<u>14 November 2025</u>
<b>17. Culture Strategy</b>	Pre-decision scrutiny of Culture Strategy (10 year)	TBC
<b>18. Communications Strategy and Business Plan</b>	Update on activity	<u>11 July 2025 – Informal</u> Members received an update in relation to the Comms Strategy and Business Plan and proposed actions for 2025/26.
<b>19. Devolution</b>	Update in respect of devolution and the impact on Kirklees and	<u>12 September 2025</u>

	engagement at regional level.	The Committee received a report which set out the contents of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill. Discussion took place in relation to: the impact on Kirklees, the further detail awaited with particular reference to the arrangements for neighbourhood governance; and the need for funding to effectively implement neighbourhood governance. It was requested that further updates be provided in December 2025 and February 2026 .
<b>20. External Funding Opportunities</b>	Update in respect of activities associated with identifying and pursuing partnership and funding opportunities that support the Council priorities.	<u>27 February 2026</u>
<b>21. Household Support Fund - Replacement</b>	Maintain an overview of the changes from the replacement of the Household Support Fund with the Crisis Resilience Fund in April 2026 and the potential impact on Kirklees residents.	TBC
<b>22. Physical Activity in Kirklees – Next Steps</b>	Recommendation from Cabinet (21/10/25) for Scrutiny to be engaged ahead of, and throughout, the next steps of the process.	<u>14 November 2025</u>
<b>23. Member Development Framework</b>	Pre-decision scrutiny prior to submission to Council	<u>27 February 2025</u>
<b>24. Scrutiny Work Programmes</b>	Maintain an overview of the Work Programmes of the four Panels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children’s</li> <li>• Environment and Climate</li> <li>• Growth and Regeneration</li> <li>• Health and Adult Social Care</li> </ul>	<u>25 July 2025</u> The Chair of Scrutiny introduced the Committee’s Work Programme for 2025/26 and each Lead Member gave an overview of their Panel’s Work Programme. The Work Programmes for 2025/26 were approved.  Updates are provided by the Lead Members at each meeting of the Committee.

**LEAD MEMBER BRIEFING ISSUES**

THEME/ISSUE	APPROACH / AREAS OF FOCUS	NOTES
Inclusion and Diversity	Inclusion and Diversity Strategy 2024-27 Progress Update	
People Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Progress Update Phase 3/4</li><li>• Pre-decision of revised strategy 2025 onwards</li></ul>	Chair's Briefing 14/11/25 with a focus on workforce planning and recruitment
Armed Forces Covenant	Progress Update	Update provided to Committee on 25/7/25