

This Report will be made public on 17 April 2023



Report Number **OS/22/11**

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 25 April 2023
Status: Non executive decision
Responsible Officer: Susan Priest, Chief Executive

SUBJECT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME
23-24

SUMMARY: This report sets out a proposed work programme for Overview and Scrutiny work for the municipal year 23/24.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report OS/22/11.
2. To adopt and implement the Scrutiny work programme, set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report, for the municipal year 23/24.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During the winter of 2023, suggestions for Scrutiny topics were sought from various sources, with the criteria that only issues which affected residents across the whole district would be considered.

In addition, the following topics would not be considered:

- Individual service complaints.
- Topics outside of the remit of the council, where the council has no powers or influence.
- Issues where Scrutiny has considered in the last 12 months.
- Areas relating to quasi-judicial functions, ie Planning and Licensing.

The final list of topics included Member and officer suggestions, community concerns, policies which were due for renewal, and topics rolled over from the previous year's Scrutiny work plan.

1.2 These suggestions were then circulated to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who were invited to score each item from 1-5 (5 highest, 1 lowest), based on each of the following criteria:

- High general public concern,
- Critical to council priorities and plans,
- High financial value,
- Risks in successful delivery.

1.3 Somewhat disappointingly, only four of the eight current OSC Members provided scores for this exercise. Based on the scores received, the nine highest scoring items were selected for the Scrutiny workplan. Nine items would make up the main workplan, with an additional four in 'reserve' for the Committee. These 'reserve' items will allow for some flexibility in the workplan, in the event that the Committee is required to consider other urgent matters.

The selections are shown in the table below.

Item No	Topic	High general public concern	Critical to council priorities and plans	High Financial value	Risks in Successful delivery	Total score
1	HRA Business Plan	16	20	19	17	72
2	Review of Corporate Plan	17	20	16	19	72
3	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	15	20	17	19	71
4	Levelling Up Fund delivery	18	19	16	18	71

5	Medium Term Financial Strategy - 2022/23-2025/26	12	18	19	20	69
6	Civic Centre relocation	16	17	17	18	68
7	Carbon Action Plan	17	17	14	16	64
8	Budget Strategy	15	18	14	16	63
9	Environment Act 2021 – Implications on Waste Collections	16	17	15	15	63

The items below will be held in reserve

10	Development of Design Codes	13	16	14	17	60
11	Parking Strategy (Folkestone Town Centre and Harbour areas)	19	12	15	14	60
12	Customer Access Strategy	15	18	13	12	58

The items below are statutory items and items referred from Council:

13	PREVENT & Safeguarding (statutory item)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
14	Otterpool Park LLP Business Plan	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
15	Removal of hoardings at Princes Parade (Petition presented to Council on 22 February 2023)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
16	Princes Parade to be abandoned and the site re-wilded (Petition presented to Council on 29 March 2023)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
17	Establish an FHDC Youth Council (Opposition Business presented to Council 29 March 2023)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

1.4 In addition to the items selected, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a statutory requirement to act as the Council's Crime and Disorder

Committee and to meet for that purpose at least once a year. This item will also form part of the Committee's work programme.

- 1.5 There are also three items of business which have been added to the Scrutiny work plan as a result of work referred from Full Council. Both items will also form part of the Committee's work programme.
- 1.6 The work plan is drawn up on the basis that the Committee would consider two to three items per meeting, although there must be flexibility in the programme, to allow for any urgent items to be considered.
- 1.7 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to endorse the Scrutiny Workplan, prior to its consideration and endorsement at the Annual meeting of the Council on 24 May 2023.

2. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

2.1 Legal Officer's Comments (AK)

It is important for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to establish and agree a work programme. This will enable the Overview and Scrutiny committee to fulfil its constitutional and legal function.

2.2 Finance Officer's Comments (RH)

There are no financial implications to this report.

2.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (GE)

There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report.

3. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Jemma West – Committee Services Specialist
Telephone: 01303 853369
Email: Jemma.west@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – scores for all items.
Appendix 2 - summary of each item