

This report will be made public on 16 May 2023



Report number: **A/23/05**

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 24 May 2023  
**Status:** Non- executive decision  
**Responsible Officer:** Amandeep Khroud, Assistant Director – Governance, Law and Regulatory Services

**SUBJECT: ANNUAL SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

**SUMMARY:** This report presents recommendations for the work programme for the overview and scrutiny committee for 2023/24.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. To receive and note report A/23/05.
2. To approve the annual scrutiny programme for 2023-24 attached to this report.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The overview and scrutiny procedure rules require that the work programme of the committee be approved at the annual meeting of the council (the programme can be a rolling one) as the annual scrutiny programme. See rule 7.2 of the overview and scrutiny procedure rules.
- 1.2 The Committee needs to consider what work programme should be adopted as the annual scrutiny programme. This report sets out the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee performs all scrutiny functions on behalf of the Council.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

- 2.1 In winter 2022/23, 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.

- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 Somewhat disappointingly, only four of the eight OSC Members provided scores for this exercise. Based on the scores received, the nine highest scoring items were selected for the Scrutiny 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. There are also two additional items for the work plan which have been referred from Full Council. The Committee will also act as the Council's Crime and Disorder Committee and meet for that purpose at least once a year.

2.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the proposed programme at their meeting on 25 April 2023.

2.5 The recommended programme, including the scoring given by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members, is shown in Appendix 1.

### **3. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

A summary of the perceived risks are as follows:

No perceived risks.

### **4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS**

#### **4.1 Legal officer's comments**

There are no legal comments.

#### **4.2 Finance officer's comments**

Any financial implications arising from the overview and scrutiny work programme which is not covered by existing budgets will need to be considered within the council's medium term financial planning processes.

#### **4.3 Diversities and equalities implications**

There are no specific diversities and equalities Implications arising from this report.

### **5. CONTACT OFFICER AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

Jemma West – Democratic Services Senior Specialist

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Email: [Jemma.west@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:Jemma.west@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

#### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1: Suggested Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24.

Background documents:

[Scoring for all items](#)

[Description of all items](#)

## Appendix 1 – proposed Scrutiny Workplan 23/24

Item No	Topic	Total score
1	HRA Business Plan	72
2	Review of Corporate Plan	72
3	Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	71
4	Levelling Up Fund delivery	71
5	Medium Term Financial Strategy -2022/23-2025/26	69
6	Civic Centre relocation	68
7	Carbon Action Plan	64
8	Budget Strategy	63
9	Environment Act 2021 – Implications on Waste Collections	63
10	Development of Design Codes	60
11	Parking Strategy (Folkestone Town Centre and Harbour areas)	60
12	Customer Access Strategy	58
13	PREVENT & Safeguarding ( <b>statutory item</b> )	n/a
14	Otterpool Park LLP Business Plan	n/a
15	Removal of hoardings at Princes Parade (Petition presented to Council on 22 February 2023)	n/a
16	Princes Parade to be abandoned and the site re-wilded (Petition presented to Council on 29 March 2023)	n/a
17	Establish an FHDC Youth Council (Opposition Business presented to Council 29 March 2023)	n/a