



Corporate Overview Group

Tuesday, 25 February 2025

Consideration of Scrutiny Group Work Programmes

Report of the Director – Finance and Corporate Services

1. Purpose of report

1.1. The terms of reference for the Corporate Overview Group accepted at Council in May 2019 clearly state that a key responsibility of this Group is to:

- Create and receive feedback on work programmes for the Growth and Development, Communities, and Governance Scrutiny Groups based on the Cabinet Forward Plan, Corporate Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital and Investment Strategy and Transformation and Efficiency Programme/Productivity Plan.

1.2. Each meeting of the Corporate Overview Group considers the work programmes for the Growth and Development, Communities, and Governance Scrutiny Groups as well as any new Scrutiny Requests put forward by Councillors and Officers. Those items that are agreed for scrutiny are included on a future work programme for one of the four Scrutiny Groups.

1.3. Work programmes for each of the groups were reviewed in November 2024 to ensure they reflected the current priorities of the Council.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Corporate Overview Group:

- a) consider any additional items for scrutiny from the current Cabinet Forward Plan, Corporate Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital and Investment Strategy and Transformation and Efficiency Programme/Productivity Plan (Appendix One)
- b) determine any additional topics to be included in a scrutiny group work programme for 2025/26 for each of the scrutiny groups as presented on newly submitted scrutiny requests (Appendix Two)
- c) review the current work programme for each of the scrutiny groups (Appendix Three)
- d) review Appendix Four for comment, which summarises the wide range of Scrutiny items taken forward over a one-year period and those items that were considered but did not meet the criteria for further scrutiny.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. To fulfil the requirements of the terms of reference for the Corporate Overview Group and ensure effective scrutiny of decisions.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. In March 2019, Council adopted a new structure for scrutiny comprised of one Corporate Overview Group and three additional Scrutiny Groups focused on Growth and Development, Communities, and Governance. The Corporate Overview Group is responsible for setting the work programmes for all scrutiny groups based on the Cabinet Forward Plan, Corporate Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital and Investment Strategy and Transformation and Efficiency Programme/Productivity Plan. Links to these documents can be found at Appendix One.
- 4.2. The Corporate Overview Group considers potential items for scrutiny (submitted by officers and Councillors on a Scrutiny Request Form) at each meeting of the Corporate Overview Group. There is one submission submitted by officers regarding the performance of Metropolitan and Thames Valley Housing (MTVH) for the next municipal year.
- 4.3. As mentioned at the last meeting the Nottinghamshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), along with the Carbon Management Action Plan update is to be presented to Communities Scrutiny in April.
- 4.4. Appendix Two shows the work programmes for all scrutiny groups as agreed in September 2024 by the Corporate Overview Group. The Group is asked to consider if the work programmes remain appropriate and achievable for the current year.
- 4.5. Any additional items identified from the Cabinet Forward Plan, Corporate Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital and Investment Strategy and Transformation and Efficiency Programme/Productivity Plan, highlighted by members of the Group or raised by officers, should be assessed against the scrutiny request form to inform the decision to include them on a scrutiny group work programme.
- 4.6. It is important to note that the purpose of scrutiny is to:
 - scrutinise a topic in more depth than the Cabinet can in advance of a Cabinet decision with the purpose of informing the decision to be made by Cabinet
 - investigate topics of concern to residents resulting in recommendations to Cabinet with the purpose of improving Council services
 - monitor the progress of the Corporate Strategy to ensure the Council is meeting its stated priorities accepting that this may require more in-depth scrutiny of specific strategic projects at appropriate times
 - hold the Executive to account on behalf of the residents of the Borough to ensure sound decisions are made.

- 4.7. The Group is reminded that there will be cases in which scrutiny is not necessary or appropriate at this time. Officers will be clear in providing reasons where they feel this is the case. Councillors are also asked to be mindful of the resources available for scrutiny and listen to the advice of Officers present in the meeting.
- 4.8. We thought it would be helpful for the Group to have oversight of the items put forward for scrutiny (highlighting the number and range of topics considered). This identifies those that have been considered and those not considered for justifiable reasons. These are summarised at Appendix Four.

5. Risks and Uncertainties

- 5.1. There are no direct risks associated with this report.

6. Implications

6.1. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6.2. Legal Implications

This report supports effective scrutiny. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6.3. Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no direct Section 17 implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

There are no direct biodiversity net gain implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	Scrutiny of issues of concern to residents can lead to improvements in the Environment.
Quality of Life	Scrutiny of issues of concern to residents can lead to improvements in their perceived Quality of Life.

Efficient Services	Scrutiny of issues of concern to residents can lead to more efficient services.
Sustainable Growth	Scrutiny of issues of concern to residents can lead to Sustainable Growth.

8. Recommendations

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For more information contact:	Ed Palmer 0115 9148 559 epalmer@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix One – Document Links Appendix Two – Scrutiny Requests Appendix Three – Work Programmes 2025/26 Appendix Four – Scrutiny Items List