



Corporate Overview Group

Tuesday, 18 November 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.
- 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 September 2025 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 (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) recirculate links to scrutiny training already delivered and resources already circulated through Councillors' Connections in the next few weeks

- e) organise training in the New Year for current chairs and vice chairs of scrutiny and extend this invitation to any prospective chairs.

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. The Council's scrutiny structure comprises 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. 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 are two scrutiny requests submitted for consideration at this meeting as outlined in Appendix Two. It should be noted that the request relating to Asylum Dispersal and Contingency Accommodation including HMO has already been agreed by this Group in principle and what has been brought back for approval are clearer, more comprehensive Key Lines of Enquiry.
- 4.3. Appendix Three shows the work programmes for all scrutiny groups as agreed in September 2025 by the Corporate Overview Group. The Group is asked to consider if the work programmes remain appropriate and achievable for the current year.
- 4.4. Any additional items identified from the Cabinet Forward Plan, Corporate Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Capital and Investment Strategy and Transformation and Efficiency Programme, 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.
- 4.5. 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.

- 4.6. 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.
- 4.7. A light touch review of the scrutiny process has been undertaken during 2025/26. This has included:
- requests for Councillors to review other local authority scrutiny arrangements and send examples or You Tube videos to the lead officer at COG in June 2025, followed up in Councillors' Collections in the following weeks
 - a request for Councillors to make suggestions about what we could do more of, less of or stop doing in relation to scrutiny and a reminder to send video links to good examples of scrutiny in Councillors' Connections throughout August 2025
 - a brief discussion at the September COG meeting about the requests for feedback made and limited engagement from Councillors followed up in Councillors' Connections with a final call for evidence.
- 4.8. Three councillors provided feedback. No examples of good practice were provided and the feedback predominately focused on frustrations with the way scrutiny operates. Many of the suggestions made already feature as part of the training that has been delivered or guidance that is already in place. Links to existing training materials and previously circulated resources will be included in Councillors' Connections in the next few weeks. In addition, training for current chairs and vice chairs (and any prospective candidates) will be organised and delivered in early 2026 as this has been on the training programme for some time but not delivered.
- 4.9. The light touch scrutiny review originally noted as an 'observation' from the 2023 Peer Review team has been concluded with two recommended actions which are included as part of this report.

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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- e) organise training in the New Year for current chairs and vice chairs of scrutiny and extend this invitation to any prospective chairs.

For more information contact:	Charlotte Caven-Atack Head of Corporate Services 0115 9148 278 ccaven-atack@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