



Corporate Overview Group

Tuesday, 3 September 2019

Consideration of Scrutiny Work Programmes

Report of the Executive Manager – 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, Investment Strategy and Transformation Plan.

1.2 The initial 2019-20 work programmes for Scrutiny Groups were created at the meeting of the Corporate Overview Group in June 2019. To ensure that scrutiny is responsive, effective and an essential part of the Council's decision making process, it is important that Corporate Overview Group considers the work programmes each time it meets.

2 Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Corporate Overview Group:

- a) review the work programmes for each of the scrutiny groups
- b) consider the complete scrutiny matrix included at Appendix Three to decide whether or not the additional item identified should be included in a scrutiny group work programme.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To fulfil the requirements of the terms of reference for the Corporate Overview Group.

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, Investment Strategy and Transformation Plan. Links to these documents can be found at Appendix One.

4.2 Appendix Two shows the work programmes for all scrutiny groups as agreed in June 2019 by the Corporate Overview Group. The Group is asked to

consider if the work programmes remain appropriate and achievable for the current year.

- 4.3 Any additional items, picked up from the Cabinet Forward Plan, Corporate Strategy, Medium Term Financial Strategy, Investment Strategy and Transformation Plan, highlighted by members of the Group, or raised by officers should be assessed against the scrutiny matrix before a decision is made to include them on a scrutiny group work programme. Appendix Three shows one such item.
- 4.4 The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was approved at Council in September 2016 and formally introduced in February/March 2017. A review of its implementation was considered at Community Development Scrutiny Group in June 2018. The Council wishes to renew the PSPO which is a tool, primarily used as a deterrent, to assist officers in the prevention of antisocial behaviour including drunk and disorderly conduct, outdoor sleeping, and misuse of community spaces. Over the last three years in Rushcliffe, no fixed penalty notices have been issued as a result of the PSPO which is considered as being a measure of its success. However, due to the use of this legislation in other areas, public interest in this topic is likely to be high. A scrutiny matrix has been completed and is included at Appendix Three for discussion.

5 Risks and Uncertainties

There are no direct risks associated with this report.

6 Implications

6.1 Financial Implications

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

6.2 Legal Implications

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

6.3 Equalities Implications

- 6.3.1 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

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

7 Link to Corporate Priorities

The construction and delivery of effective scrutiny work programmes will over time support each of the Council's Corporate Priorities.

8 Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that the Corporate Overview Group:

- a) review the work programmes for each of the scrutiny groups
- b) consider the complete scrutiny matrix included at Appendix Three to decide whether or not the additional item identified should be included in a scrutiny group work programme.

For more information contact:	Peter Linfield Executive Manager - Finance and Corporate Services 0115 9148439 plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	None.
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Document Links Appendix 2 – Work Programmes 2019-20

Links

Cabinet Forward Plan

<https://democracy.rushcliffe.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=137&RD=0>

Corporate Strategy

https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1_rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/aboutus/corporateinformation/Corporate%20Strategy%202016%20-2020.pdf [new Corporate Strategy under development – features later on the agenda for Corporate Overview Group 20 June 2019]

Medium Term Financial Strategy, Investment Strategy, Transformation Plan

<https://democracy.rushcliffe.gov.uk/documents/s3748/Budget%20and%20Financial%20Strategy%20201920.pdf>

Work Programme 2019-20 – Corporate Overview Group

	Items / Reports
Thursday 20 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of Change – Scrutiny ○ Development of Scrutiny Group Work Programmes ○ Financial and Performance Management • Rolling Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Corporate Strategy ○ Health and Safety Annual Report
Thursday 3 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of Change – Scrutiny ○ Feedback from Scrutiny Group Chairmen ○ Consideration of Scrutiny Group Work Programmes ○ Consideration of Requests for Scrutiny from Councillors ○ Financial and Performance Management • Rolling Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Corporate Strategy ○ Customer Feedback Annual Report
Tuesday 19 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of Change – Scrutiny ○ Feedback from Scrutiny Group Chairmen ○ Consideration of Scrutiny Group Work Programmes ○ Consideration of Requests for Scrutiny from Councillors ○ Financial and Performance Management • Rolling Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diversity Annual Report
Thursday 25 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementation of Change – Scrutiny ○ Feedback from Scrutiny Group Chairmen ○ Consideration of Scrutiny Group Work Programmes ○ Consideration of Requests for Scrutiny from Councillors ○ Financial and Performance Management • Rolling Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ xx

Draft Work Programme 2019-20 – Governance Scrutiny Group

	Items / Reports
Tuesday 23 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Fraud Report • External Auditor’s Report to those Charged with Governance 2018/19 • Statement of Accounts 2018/19 • Risk Management Progress Report • Capital and Investment Outturn 2018/19
Thursday 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Progress Report Q1

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Audit Letter
Tuesday 3 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Progress Report Q2 • Capital and Investment Update • Risk Management
Thursday 6 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Progress Report Q3 • Treasury Management Strategy • Internal Audit Strategy • External Audit Plan • Certification of Grants and Returns
Thursday 13 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Audit Progress Report Q4 • Internal Audit Annual Report • Risk Management • Annual Asset and Investment Strategy Report • Annual Governance Statement

Work Programme 2019-20 – Growth and Development Scrutiny Group

	Items / Reports
Tuesday 15 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbey Road and depot redevelopment • Community Infrastructure Levy
Tuesday 7 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development / Business Support Offer • Supporting and promoting economic vibrancy in towns and villages
Tuesday 17 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer Service and digital transformation

Work Programme 2019-20 – Communities Scrutiny Group

	Items / Reports
Thursday 3 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon management plan development and review • Community Partnership Review – Positive Futures and Young
Thursday 9 January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Community Hall Facilities in WB • Resources and Waste Strategy – Govt Proposals (provisional as statement expected in Autumn)
Thursday 19 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon management plan development and review

Topic:

Review of the Public Spaces Protection Order

The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was approved at Council in September 2016 and formally introduced in March 2017. Prior to that, it had been considered by the Community Development Scrutiny Group (August 2016) and a review of its implementation was considered at the same group in June 2018.

The PSPO is a tool, primarily used as a deterrent, to assist officers in the prevention of antisocial behaviour including drunk and disorderly conduct, outdoor sleeping, and misuse of community spaces. Creating a safe environment for residents of our Borough is of paramount importance to the Council, as is protecting our most vulnerable residents and supporting those that need our help. The PSPO is one of a range of tools that enables us to do this effectively. Over the last three years in Rushcliffe, no fixed penalty notices have been issued as a result of the PSPO which is seen as a measure of its success.

The PSPO requires reviewing every three years and, as a consequence, following public consultation (also part of the process), a revised PSPO must be adopted by the Council prior to 1 March 2020.

Initial questions to ask	
Why would we do this?	To ensure that the PSPO is a beneficial tool which helps to protect the Borough and its residents
How does it link to the Council's Corporate Strategy?	Considered part of the Council's Quality of Life commitment.
What tangible benefits could result for the community or our customers?	Lower incidence of antisocial behaviour and higher levels of feeling safe within the Borough.
What evidence is there to support the need for a review?	The Order must be reviewed every three years – this is now due.
What would we wish to achieve and why?	A well-considered, revised policy which takes into account the views and needs of all stakeholders.
Are resources available to undertake a scrutiny exercise and will the work programme accommodate it?	The work programme is tight but can be stretched – the alternative would be to allow the PSPO to go straight to Council in December 2019 for approval without scrutiny.

Reasons to reject the topic	
Is it covered by the terms of reference for a	A review of the PSPO would fall within

scrutiny group?	the remit of the Communities Scrutiny Group.
Is it already being addressed?	A public consultation has been launched and officers are reviewing the order in line with current guidance.
Is it part of a legal process?	Yes, if enacted
Does it fall within the Council's complaints procedure?	No
Is it a staffing matter that would fall within the jurisdiction of the Head of Paid Service?	No
Is it unlikely to result in real or tangible improvements for local people?	No
Is there sufficient capacity to support such a review?	Yes

Score	Importance	Impact
0	No evidence of links to Aims and Priorities	No potential benefits
1	No evidence of links to Aims and Priorities, but a subject of high public concern	Minor potential benefits affecting only one ward/ customer / client group
2	Some evidence of links, but indirect	Minor benefits to two groups / moderate benefits to one
3	Good evidence linking both Aims and Priorities	Moderate benefits to more than one group / substantial benefits to one
4	Strong evidence linking both, and has a high level of public concern	Substantial community-wide benefits

Importance	4			Priority Topic for Scrutiny	
	3				
	2				
	1				
		1	2	3	4
Impact					

Outcome: