

TITLE OF REPORT:	Annual Work Programme 2023-24
REPORT OF:	Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services & Governance

Summary

To provide details on development of the work programme for Overview and Scrutiny Committees (OSCs) and the provisional work programme for Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities OSC for the municipal year 2023-24.

Development of 2023-24 Work Programme

1. Every year each Overview and Scrutiny Committee draws up a work programme based on the Council's policy framework which is then agreed by the Council as part of the policy planning process.
2. The Committee's work programme is a rolling programme which sets the agenda for its meetings. It is the means by which it can address the interests of the local community, focus on improving services and seek to reduce inequalities in service provision and access to services.
3. OSC members have been involved, through consultation, in shaping the focus of the work of specific OSCs and have been provided with an opportunity to comment on the emerging themes at the April 2023 OSC meetings. The emerging themes have taken account of the need to support the Council's Thrive agenda and add value, the Council's Performance Framework; the Gateshead Strategic Needs Assessment and the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
4. Subsequently, in line with usual practice, partner organisations have been consulted on the themes identified through consultation with members and have indicated that they are supportive of the emerging themes overall. Partners have also put forward some suggested areas for scrutiny for specific OSCs as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
5. The proposed 2023/24 work programme (attached at Appendix 1) remains provisional as:-
 - Cabinet may wish to refer further issues to Overview and Scrutiny Committees for further consideration.
 - It does not take account of new policy issues which may be identified during the year, which Cabinet may wish to refer to Overview and Scrutiny; and
 - It does not include issues identified by members of committees on an ongoing basis during the year as a result of scrutiny decisions, call in and councillor call for action.

Recommendations

6. The Committee is asked to:-

- a) Note the information contained in the annual work programme report and provide any comments.
- b) Endorse the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's provisional work programme for 2023-24 attached at Appendix 1, subject to any amendments arising from consideration of Appendix 2, and refer it to Council on 20 July 2023 for agreement.
- c) Note that further reports will be brought to the Committee to identify any additional issues which the Committee may be asked to consider.