

**TITLE OF REPORT:** **Development of Work Programme for 2024-25**

**REPORT OF:** **Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive  
Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services  
& Governance**

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## Summary

This report details the Overview and Scrutiny work programme setting process for 2024-25 and a list of suggested topics for inclusion in the work programme, relevant to the remit of the Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC).

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1. A key component to the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function is work programme planning that seeks input from a wide variety of sources and identifies priority areas where scrutiny can seek to add the most value.
2. Ideas for topics for scrutiny to consider can be gathered from a wide range of sources including:
  - Elected Members
  - Senior Officers
  - Partner Organisations
  - Corporate Plans and Strategies
  - Complaints system and Ombudsman
  - Evidence from Councillors on issues affecting neighbourhoods
3. Elected Members and relevant officers were invited to submit suggestions for inclusion in the work programme between 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
4. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities OSC performs the overview and scrutiny role in relation to the following functions:
  - economic development and vitality
  - lifelong learning including education, training and learning outside the school environment; people into work
  - culture, leisure, the arts, sports and recreation
  - the safety of communities and people in the Borough
  - matters relating to housing, including management and maintenance of the Council's housing stock and private housing stock
  - the physical development and regeneration of the area
  - transport planning and the promotion of public transport
  - the quality of the local environment, including refuse collection, street cleaning, ground maintenance, highway maintenance and the cleaning of Council buildings

- the protection of the environment, including Climate Change
  - Homelessness, rough sleeping and asylum matters.
5. A list of suggestions received relevant to the remit of Housing, Environment and Healthy Communities OSC is appended to the report.

## **Role of Overview and Scrutiny**

1. As per the Council's Constitution, the following principles govern the Overview and Scrutiny Function:
  - It will be an integral part of the Council's framework, working within it not outside or against it
  - It will be a constructive process which is open and accountable
  - It will work alongside the other parts of the Council's structure in making a contribution to policy
  - It will enhance rather than duplicate activity
  - It will look outwards to broader issues affecting local people rather than just internal Council issues
2. This is underpinned by the four fundamental principles of good scrutiny set out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny:
  - provide constructive "critical friend" challenge;
  - amplify the voice and concerns of the public
  - be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
  - drive improvement in public services.
3. Members of the Committee are invited to highlight any additional topics they wish to put forward for consideration for inclusion in the work programme. Work will then be undertaken, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, to allocate topics to the Committee's meeting schedule in a timely manner and scope the content of reports. A further work programme report will then be submitted for approval at the first meeting of the 2024/25 municipal year.
4. It is acknowledged that, whilst the majority of the work of overview and scrutiny will be planned in a structured way, there will be flexibility within work programmes for committees to respond to any issues that arise throughout the year.

## **Recommendations**

1. The Committee is asked to:
  - a) Comment on the emerging issues for this OSC's 2024-25 work programme and highlight any additional issues for consideration.

**Contact:** Emma Fagan - 4479