

Report sponsor: Head of Democracy
Report author: Democratic Services Manager

Work Programme for 2023/24 Municipal Year

Purpose

- 1.1 The Corporate Services and Cost of Living Board will have an opportunity to review its Terms of Reference and Remit for the current municipal year. The Board meets four times in the municipal year and this was the last meeting of the 2023/24 municipal year. The Board may undertake Topic Review/s supported by Democratic Services Officers and officers from other departments, but will also look at service reviews, policy development and any issues referred from the Executive Scrutiny Board.
- 1.2 The report allows officers to inform the Board of any key work areas, issues or potential topic review subjects for discussion or inclusion in the work programme
- 1.3 Members of the Board will also have the opportunity to review items for the Corporate Services and Cost of Living Board work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year and any topic reviews.

Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the report.
- 2.2 To review the work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Reason

- 3.1 To make the Board aware of its Terms of Reference.
- 3.2 To enable the council to undertake functions in relation to scrutiny, specifically to investigate, gather evidence and make recommendations to the scrutiny board in an advisory capacity.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Terms of Reference of Scrutiny Review Boards

Within the scope of their terms of reference set out in Article 6 of the Constitution to:

1. Agree a programme of policy development and review in relation to the board's allocated topic area, and to undertake any policy development and review arising;
2. Consider service updates in relation to council and non council functions within the board's allocated topic area;

3. Make reports or recommendation to Council, Council Cabinet or any committees of the council in respect of the discharge of the council's functions; and
 4. Make recommendations to the Executive Scrutiny Board in respect of performance areas for review.
- 4.2 The Terms of Reference for this board cover the following service areas, and encompasses the portfolios of the Cabinet Members for Strategy; Governance; and, Finance and Cost of Living, Equalities and Customer Inclusion:

Corporate Governance, Procurement and Property

- Legal, Insurance and Information Governance
- Democracy
- Procurement

Finance

- Corporate Finance
- Business Partnering
- Major Projects
- Business Support and Debt Management
- Internal Audit

Corporate Management

- Projects and Change
- Strategy, Performance and Partnerships
- Communications and Marketing
- Human Resources and Workforce Development
- Policy and Insight

Communities

- Community Safety (Cohesion)

Digital Infrastructure and Customer Engagement

- Digital Enablement and Automation
- ICT Infrastructure and Cyber Security
- Customer Engagement and Registration Services
- Accommodation, Facilities and Health & Safety.

Other

- Cost of Living Coordination Group
- VCS Engagement

- 4.3 This item gives members an opportunity to discuss and review any topic review/s for the current municipal year and develop the basis for future topic reviews.

- 4.4 If a working group is formed for the purpose of conducting topic reviews, they should only exist for the duration of the review and be dissolved upon completion of the review. Individuals outside of the scrutiny board can be invited to join the working group, as the group has no formal scrutiny powers. The purpose of the working group is to investigate, gather evidence and make recommendations to the scrutiny board in an advisory capacity.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 None directly arising from this report.

Other options

- 6.1 None.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report. Implications may arise from future items identified for inclusion on the work programme as and when they are considered by the Board and from the final recommendations resulting from topic reviews.

Legal implications

- 8.1 Implications may arise from future items identified for inclusion on the work programme as and when they are considered by the Board and from the final recommendations resulting from topic reviews.

Climate implications

- 9.1 Implications may arise from future items identified for inclusion on the work programme as and when they are considered by the board and from the final recommendations resulting from topic reviews.

Socio Economic Implications

- 10.1 Implications may arise from future items identified for inclusion on the work programme as and when they are considered by the board and from the final recommendations resulting from topic reviews.

Other significant implications

- 11.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)	Alex Hough - Head of Democracy	
Background papers: List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Work Programme for Corporate Services Scrutiny Review Board	

Corporate Services and Cost of Living Scrutiny Review Board Work Programme 2023/24

Meeting	Items	Service Director / Lead Officer
20 July 2023	Digital by Default and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Services	Andy Brammall
	Insight Led Council (<i>Horizon Scanning etc</i>)	Heather Greenan
	Work Programme and Topic Review	All
28 September 2023	Hardship – Affecting Residents	Heather Greenan / Sarah Walker
	Voluntary Sector Engagement Update and Locality Working Update	Sarah Walker Sam Dennis / Charles Edwards
	Work Programme and Topic Review	All
5 December 2023	Councillor Casework Portal	Alex Hough
	Work Programme and Topic Review	All
7 March 2024	Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Andy Brammall
	Customer Management	Andy Brammall
	Diversity and Inclusion	Heather Greenan
	Work Programme and Topic Review	All