

For general release

REPORT TO:	SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE 10th July 2018
SUBJECT:	WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19
LEAD OFFICER:	Simon Trevaskis Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer - Scrutiny

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	The Council's Constitution requires the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to agree the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year.
PURPOSE:	To agree the scrutiny work programme for future meetings.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Scrutiny and Overview Committee has a constitutional responsibility to set its work programme at its first full meeting after Annual Council each year.

2. PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY

- 2.1 Before setting the initial Work Programme for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its three Sub-Committees (Children & Young People, Health & Social Care and Streets, Environment & Housing), it is worth revisiting the principles for scrutiny. There are a number of factors that contribute towards delivering effective scrutiny, the Centre for Public Scrutiny has set out the four principles of what it considered to be good scrutiny, in that it should:
- Provide a constructive "critical friend" challenge;
 - Amplify the voices and concerns of the public;
 - Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role;
 - Drive improvement in public services.
- 2.2 For scrutiny to be effective it needs to be seen as a 'critical friend' and it is important to identify where decisions could be improved and how to prevent mistakes being made or repeated. However, the focus should be on forward thinking and making positive change, rather than apportioning blame and focusing on the negatives. In doing so it will lead to both positive and constructive relationships between scrutiny, councillors and officers. In order to be successful scrutiny also relies on the following conditions:

2.3 Effective Work Programming

Scrutiny work programming is at its most effective when there are clear criteria for the selection of subjects and agenda items.

2.4 Positive attitude of the Council Cabinet and Council Officers

Scrutiny works best when the Council's Cabinet views it in a positive light and as an opportunity to improve Council performance. Scrutiny's effectiveness will be reduced if the Cabinet sees it as aggressively critical, which will lead to defensive behaviour and make it increasingly difficult for Scrutiny to influence change. Similarly, Scrutiny will be more effective if council officers are willing to provide information and assistance when required. Ideally officers should see Scrutiny as an essential partner in improving services, where non-Cabinet Councillors can help them to better understand local people and make robust judgements about priorities.

2.5 Positive attitude of Scrutiny Councillors

Scrutiny Councillors need to be committed to making the function work and to developing the conditions necessary for working effectively with the Council's Cabinet and officers, and any other relevant partner organisations. It is also important that Scrutiny is seen as impartial and stays separate from party politics. However, Scrutiny work includes looking at issues that are locally politically contentious and high profile, and as such an element of political disagreement is inevitable. It should also be recognised that greater weight can be given to Scrutiny recommendations agreed by the whole Committee, rather than those agreed along party political lines. The challenge for Scrutiny Councillors is to use their political skills and understanding of the needs of local people to shape the discussions, while not acting in a party political manner or using the discussions to further party political objectives.

3. LEGISLATION

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees were established in authorities by the Local Government Act 2000 and intended as a counterweight to the new executive structures created by that Act (elected mayors or leaders and cabinets). It was envisioned that their role would be to develop and review policy and make recommendations to the Council. The main legislative provisions for Overview and Scrutiny Committees for England can now be found in the Localism Act 2011, which consolidated many of the subsequent legislative changes introduced since 2000.
- 3.2 As well as powers to scrutinise internal performance, Scrutiny also has powers to scrutinise other public bodies, with specific legislation relating to the scrutiny of Health Services (the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Well-Being Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013) and Crime and Disorder matters (Police and Justice Act 2006).
- 3.3 The provision for 'health scrutiny' of health bodies and authorities at Croydon is overseen by the Health and Social Care Sub-Committee. The Chairman and Vice-

Chairman of the Sub-Committee also represent the Council on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and provide regular updates to the Sub-Committee on its work. As part of the powers relating to health scrutiny the Sub-Committee can require members or officers of local health bodies to provide information and to attend meetings to answer questions.

- 3.4 The provision of a 'crime and disorder committee' is mandatory and at Croydon this function is delegated to the main Scrutiny and Overview Committee. Arising from this, the Committee has the power to ask local community safety partners for information, request that those partners attend meetings (given reasonable notice) and require that those partners consider recommendations submitted to them.

4. EFFECTIVENESS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

4.1 In December 2017 the House of Commons Communities and Local Government Select Committee presented its report on the Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The report highlighted a number of proposed recommendations for improvements in local authority scrutiny for the Government to consider. As a result updated guidance for local authorities will be produced later in the year and any resulting changes to scrutiny process will need to be implemented as required.

4.2 Highlights from the report include promoting the independence of Scrutiny, improving the parity of esteem for Scrutiny and promoting the importance of the involvement of the public and service users in scrutiny reviews.

5. WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Procedure Rules (extracted from the Constitution) state that:

“6.1. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee shall be responsible for setting its own work programme and the initial work programme of its Sub- Committees.

6.2. A balanced work programme should be developed including pre- and post-decision scrutiny, monitoring and external scrutiny. As far as reasonably practicable, there should be wide consultation on the work programme with Councillors, Chief Officers, external agencies and the wider community prior to its consideration by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

6.3. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee will oversee Sub-Committee workloads, having regard to the available officer and other resources.”

- 5.2 The Scrutiny and Overview Committee Work Programme 2018-19 (attached as Appendix A) sets out a programme of work which focuses on a number of different strands including ongoing item such as the Children's Improvement Plan and Community Safety, while also responding to issues important to the local community such a rail transport provision and affordable housing need.
- 5.3 It is also recognised that training is essential to equip Members with the right skills and understanding to scrutinise subjects in detail. To achieve that

learning and development sessions have been organised in place of the first meetings of both Children & Young People and Health & Social Care Sub-Committees, to familiarise Members with the subject matter and provide an overview statutory processes involved in these committees. Other Learning and Development sessions will be organised for Members during the year as required.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

6.1 Members are asked to agree the Work Programme.

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APPENDIX A:

Scrutiny and Overview Work
Programme 2017/18

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19

Scrutiny & Overview Committee

Meeting Date	Item
10 July 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leader Q & A (S)- Medium Term Financial Strategy- Scrutiny Annual Report (S)
4 Sept 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Update on new Operational Model- Staffing Update (Recruitment & Retention)
30 October 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Finance and Resources Q & A (S)
11 December 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Culture, Leisure & Sport Q & A (S)- Fairfield Halls Update
14 January 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Leader Q & A (S)- Budget 19/20 (S)
5 March 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Safer Croydon & Communities Q&A (S)- Community Safety Strategy (S)- Crime & Disorder Partnership (S)
30 April 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Economy & Jobs Q & A (S)- Brexit Impact

Children & Young People Sub-Committee

Meeting Date	Item
19 June 18	- Learning & Development Session
18 September 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children's Improvement Plan Update (S) - Early Help Strategy Children's - Safeguarding Board Annual Report (S)
27 November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children's Improvement Plan Update (S) - Academies – Engagement & Scrutiny of performance. - Special Educational Needs Review
5 February 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children, Young People & Learning Q & A (S) - Education Budget (S) - Education Standards (S)
12 March 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children's Improvement Plan Update (S) - Children's Social Care Annual Report (S)

Health and Social Care Sub-Committee

Meeting Date	Item
3 July 18	- Learning & Development Session
25 September 18	- Healthwatch (S) - Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) Update (S)
20 November 18	- Healthwatch (S) - JHOSC Update (S)
18 December 18	- Healthwatch (S) - JHOSC Update (S)
12 March 2019	- Families, Health & Social Care Q & A (S) - Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (S) - SLaM - Health Devolution - Healthwatch (S) - JHOSC Update (S)

The Committee has a statutory role to Scrutinise:

CCG

Health & Wellbeing Board

Local health service providers

Public Health

Streets, Environment and Homes Sub-Committee

Meeting Date	Item
26 June 18	- Network Rail – New Timetable
11 September 18	- Review of Social Housing Providers, to include:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing Solutions 2. Registered Social Landlords
6 November 18	- Clean Green Croydon Q and A (S) - South London Waste Partnership
22 January 19	- Homes & Gateway Services Q and A (S) - Brick by Brick
19 February	- Environments, Transport & Regeneration Q & A (S)
19 March 19	- Housing Review, to include:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private Landlord Licensing 2. Permitted Development – Impact 3. Benefits & Income issues for Private Tenants