

Birmingham City Council.

Report to Economy, Skills and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 July 2024



Title:	ECONOMY, SKILLS AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
Lead Cabinet Portfolio:	Not Applicable
Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Not Applicable
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Authorised by:	Christian Scade, Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services Legal and Governance
Is this a Key Decision?	Not Applicable
If this is a Key Decision, is this decision listed on the Forward Plan?	Not Applicable
Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Is this a Late Report?	No
Reason(s) why Late:	Not Applicable
Is this decision eligible for 'call in?'	Not Applicable
If not eligible, please provide reason(s):	Not Applicable

Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private? Not Applicable

Reasons why not included on the Notification: Not Applicable

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Economy, Skills and Culture Overview and Scrutiny (OSC) Committee to agree key issues to be considered by the Committee during 2024/25 and the scrutiny methods that will be used to undertake this work.
- 1.2 A key aspect of the work of all Overview and Scrutiny Committee's will be the continued focus on the delivery of savings agreed in the 24/25 Council budget and the relevant programmes within the Council's Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP) where the Committee can add value.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 2.1 No comments were received by the Commissioners for this report.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 3.1 Agrees the work programme outlined in Appendix A.
- 3.2 Notes, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Corporate and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

- 4.1 The Statutory Guidance for Overview and Scrutiny Committees [Overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/124444/Overview_and_scrutiny_statutory_guidance_for_councils_combined_authorities_and_combined_county_authorities_-_GOV.UK_(www.gov.uk).pdf) was updated in April 2024 and re-affirms the role of overview and scrutiny in holding an authority's decision-makers to account remains fundamentally important to the functioning of local democracy.
- 4.2 Effective Overview and Scrutiny should:
 - provide 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 and strategic decision-making
- 4.3 The Council's Constitution Part B 11 sets out the procedures and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees:
[Constitution Part B Roles Functions and Rules of Procedure March 2024 AF \(1\).pdf](#)

- 4.4 The terms of reference for the Economy, Skills and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee are:
- 4.4.1 To fulfil the functions of an Overview as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning regeneration and infrastructure projects, Council assets, economic growth, employment, skills, arts, culture, heritage, tourism, partnership with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), major sporting events and events development. This includes:
 - 4.4.2 Major physical regeneration and infrastructure projects in the city
 - 4.4.3 Oversight of Council-owned land and property strategy and facilities, assets, amenities and services including markets
 - 4.4.4 Promotion of the city and inward investment
 - 4.4.5 Economic growth and jobs
 - 4.4.6 Partnership with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)
 - 4.4.7 Major sporting events and events development
 - 4.4.8 Skills expansion for key growth sectors along with lifelong learning for post 14 skills and lifelong learning
 - 4.4.9 Access to employment and delivery of local employment plans
 - 4.4.10 Arts, culture and tourism
 - 4.4.11 Museums
 - 4.4.12 Promotion of the city's heritage and investment in the city.
- 4.5 The work programme of all Overview and Scrutiny Committees will align to the priorities within the Council's Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP).

Economy, Skills and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2024/25

- 4.6 The work programme for 2024/25 will develop during the year and a Task and Finish Group has been established that will consider what information members will need to identify further issues.
- 4.7 Appendix A sets out the issues previously agreed by the Committee. It also sets out further information in the 'menu of items for consideration' of additional items the Committee may wish to explore. All topics should relate to some or all of the following:
- Programmes from the Council's Improvement and Recovery Plan within the Committee's terms of reference
 - Scrutiny of the implications of savings agreed in the Council's budget including equality and equity issues arising from the budget
 - Safe and effective delivery of key services supporting vulnerable people

- Monitoring recommendations from previous Scrutiny Inquiries and Task and Finish Group work
- Critical performance issues emerging by exception (this will be defined through work with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny)

4.8 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny is providing support to the Council which includes developing a framework which will enable the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s to add value to the Council’s improvement journey.

4.9 When considering the issues to be included in the work programme members are also asked to agree the Scrutiny method that will be used. This can include:

- **Committee meeting single item**, or items, on a public committee agenda: this fits more closely the “overview” aspect of the Scrutiny function and has limited opportunity for effective scrutiny.
- **Committee meeting single theme** at a public committee meeting: This has the capacity to enhance the previous option by taking evidence from a number of witnesses.
- **Task and Finish Group in day**: provided that these are properly focused, they ensure Councillors can swiftly reach conclusions and make recommendations and are effective even for complex topics. The work of a Task and Finish Group will be agreed by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Task and Finish Group meeting is not public. The outcome of the Task and Finish Group will be reported to a public committee meeting.
- **Multiple Task and Finish Group meetings**: to consider an issue in depth over four or six meetings spread over a limited number of months.
- **Site Visit**: Members visit services or organisations to inform the work of the Committee.
- **Inquiry Evidence Gathering**: Evidence for Scrutiny Inquiries may take place at public committee meetings, Task and Finish Groups or Site Visits
- **Briefings**: for members to be updated on specific issues.

4.10 The Council’s latest Forward Plan: [July 2024 Forward Plan \(cmis.uk.com\)](https://cmis.uk.com) assist Members in identifying future topics. The following reports are of particular relevance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy & Skills			
Reference Item	Title	Date Proposed	First Published
012971/2024	Aston Hall Renovation Works – Museum Estate and Development Grant Submission	23 Jul 2024	17 May 2024
012717/2024	Update on Relocation for Control Centre to Enable the Decommissioning of Lancaster	23 Jul 2024	25 Mar 2024

	Circus		
012806/2024	Smithfield Birmingham Application for Enterprise Zone Funding	23 Jul 2024	15 Apr 2024
012121/2024	Perry Barr Residential Scheme - Disposal of Plots 2, 3, 4 & 5	25 Jul 2024	06 Nov 2023
012296/2024	Revision of terms of Head Lease for 10 Gough Street, Birmingham	25 Jul 2024	15 Jan 2024
012745/2024	Disposal of Land at Peddimore Estate, Minworth	25 Jul 2024	25 Mar 2024
012966/2024	Perry Barr Residential Scheme - Disposal of Plots 6, 7 & 8 report	25 Jul 2024	15 May 2024
013125/2024	Letting of West Car Park, NEC	25 Jul 2024	24 Jun 2024
013126/2024	Industrial Ground Rent Sales Programme	25 Jul 2024	24 Jun 2024
013136/2024	Perry Barr Residential Scheme - Disposal of Plot 9 report	25 Jul 2024	28 Jun 2024
012094/2024	Highbury Hall and Grounds Refurbishment and Renovation Project	03 Sep 2024	13 Nov 2023
009483/2022	Disposal of Surplus Properties	12 Sep 2024	01 Dec 2022
012640/2024	Proposed Sale of Surplus Freehold Property Assets by Public Auction	12 Sep 2024	04 Mar 2024
012761/2024	Arena Central	12 Sep 2024	08 Apr 2024
012970/2024	Selection of Developer/Bid for the former Tower Ballroom Site	12 Sep 2024	17 May 2024
012997/2024	Arden Cross Ltd Development Agreement, Business Plan and Budget for Q3 and Q4 24/25	12 Sep 2024	24 May 2024
013026/2024	The Brasshouse, Sheepcote Street Birmingham B16 8AE	12 Sep 2024	10 Jun 2024
012862/2024	Smithfield: Authority to Make CPO	15 Oct 2024	03 May 2024
013137/2024	East Birmingham North Solihull - Programme Update	15 Oct 2024	28 Jun 2024
012260/2024	NEC Masterplan and Property Strategy	24 Oct 2024	01 Dec 2023
009087/2021	Martineau Galleries Outline Business Case	10 Dec 2024	29 Jun 2021
Cabinet Member for Finance			
Reference Item	Title	Date Proposed	First Published

012487/2024	Sale of Moilliett Street Park	28 Nov 2024	23 Jan 2024
Leader			
Reference Item	Title	Date Proposed	First Published
012822/2024	Provisional Financial Outturn 2023/24	23 Jul 2024	19 Apr 2024
012592/2024	Section 151 Officer Update on the Financial Position of the Council – March 2024	19 Mar 2024	19 Feb 2024
Cabinet Member for Digital, Culture, Heritage and Tourism			
Reference Item	Title	Date Proposed	First Published
012972/2024	Outline Business Case: Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery National Lottery Heritage Fund Proposal	03 Sep 2024	17 May 2024

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 The Council's Governance and Stabilisation Plan identified the need to strengthen the working relationships between the Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Chair of the Audit Committee to lead and direct the function. This will include the development of a Memorandum of Understanding that will include the respective roles of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Audit in relation to the Council's management of risk.

6 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 6.1 There are no immediate financial implications from this report as the Committee has been asked to review the implications and impact of the budget savings on the services within the terms of reference, not to challenge or change the financial delivery of the savings themselves. An update report on the performance of the council in delivering the financial savings will instead be taken to the Corporate and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2024.

Legal

- 6.2 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in the report.

Equalities

- 6.3 The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.4 The protected characteristics and groups outlined in the Equality Act are Age; Disability; Gender Reassignment; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Pregnancy and Maternity; Race; Religion and Belief; Sex, and Sexual Orientation.

6.5 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during work programme development, the scoping of work, evidence gathering and making recommendations. This should include considering: How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share a relevant protected characteristic; Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate; Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Birmingham; Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.

6.6 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments, and any recommendations, are based on evidence. This should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

People Services

6.7 There are no staffing implications resulting from the recommendations in this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

6.8 Overview and Scrutiny Committee's will consider the climate change, nature and Net Zero issues relevant to the work programme items.

Corporate Parenting

6.9 Overview and Scrutiny Committee's will consider the corporate parenting responsibilities and opportunities relevant to the work programme.

7 APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix A: Economy, Skills and Culture OSC Work Programme June 24

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 [Governance Review of Birmingham City Council by Centre for Governance and Scrutiny: Cabinet 12 December 2023](#)

8.2 [Improvement and Recovery Plan: Cabinet 4 April 2024](#)