

CORPORATE AND FINANCE OSC

ACTION TRACKER 2023/24

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Notes
27 January 2023	Cabinet Member Social Justice, Community Safety & Equalities	The Cabinet Member agreed to meet with the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council and will confirm if the letter was sent to the MPs when the definition was adopted and restate the message	<p>IN PROGRESS</p> <p>Cllr Brennan has met with Leader and is now in the process of arranging visits with a number of faith leaders, including Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leaders and will circulate the letter. It is not possible to confirm that a letter was issued to MPs, but Cllr Brennan will circulate a letter following her visit.</p> <p>UPDATE (30 Nov 2023) As a result of the current conflict in the Middle East the actions (see above) have not taken place as previously advised. The Cabinet Member and Officers are in regular discussions with the Jewish Community and the CST and will reconsider actions as a result of the conflict and increases in Antisemitism that have been seen.</p>
16 June 2023	Developing the Co-ordinating OSC Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24	A short briefing note on OFLOG, and its functions and powers, to be produced once more is known about it.	<p>COMPLETED</p> <p>The Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services circulated a briefing from the Centre of Governance and Scrutiny on this (via email) ahead of the January OSC Committee meeting.</p>

15 Sept 2023	Financial Challenges – Scrutiny Contribution	Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) to ensure that information on statutory recommendations is forwarded to members.	IN PROGRESS / ONGOING
15 Sept 2023	Financial Challenges – Scrutiny Contribution	Discussion be held with the Chair of the Audit Committee and OSC Chairs on how to modify work programmes and if such modifications are necessary to ensure that value was added in the context of financial challenges.	IN PROGRESS / ONGOING This is being picked up as part of work to respond to the CfGS Governance Review, especially recommendation 6 (<i>Strengthen working relationships between the Chairs of Scrutiny Committees and the Chair of the Audit Committee to lead and direct the function</i>) and recommendation 7 (<i>Put in place new arrangements for the support of the internal audit function, the audit committee, and the links between audit and scrutiny</i>).
13 Oct 2023	Scrutiny of Delivery of 2023/24 Budget Savings and update on Council’s response to Section 114 Notice and Financial Recovery Plan.	That a cross-party/cross OSC Task and Finish Group led by Finance and Resources OSC be set up to discuss budgetary issues. This would be Chaired by the Chair of Finances and Resources OSC but involving the other Chairs of OSCs.	COMPLETED Final report considered by Finance and Resources OSC on 24 January ahead of recommendations be considered by Cabinet at the end of February and by Full Council in March.
13 Oct 2023	Scrutiny Work Programme	The Chair highlighted that there would be a need for each of the scrutiny work programmes to refocus on the Council’s recovery, budget and improvement priorities to ensure the best use of Scrutiny resource and the time of officers across the council working with scrutiny.	IN PROGRES / ONGOING Information in relation to indicative priorities/workstreams for the Improvement and Recovery Plan, including proposed themes/outcomes, considered by all OSCs during January and February. Following this, Scrutiny Chairs collectively reviewed all work programmes as part of an informal meeting held on 23 February. Further work in this area will be supported

			by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny who held a workshop with the Committee on 23 February, with a second workshop scheduled for 15 March. This work will help to prioritise both budget and non-budget aspects of the scrutiny work programme and will help identify new ways of doing this work.
19 Mar 2024	Scrutiny Work Programme	The Chair highlighted that there would be a need informal Task and Finish Groups to meet during April 2024 in private sessions to consider delivery plans. The plans contained exempt information. A public Coordination O & S Committee would then be held in May 2024 to receive reports from Scrutiny Committees.	In progress/ Ongoing Each Overview & Scrutiny Committee held an informal (i.e. private) Task & Finish meeting to consider the Delivery Plans of the 2024-25 Budget savings. Some of the Delivery Plans included confidential information- staffing information, legal risks, some commercial elements – and were not published. Cabinet Members and CLT, as appropriate, were invited to attend the Task and Finish Group meetings.
17 May 2024	Scrutiny Work Programme	That a Task and Finish Group: Current Practices and Future Use of Information to Inform Work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees be appointed. That the Task and Finish Group would report to the Corporate and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2024. The Chair highlighted that in July, the Corporate and Finance OSC would focus on the 2024-25 savings reported to the Improvement and Recovery Board.	In progress/ Ongoing In May, Co-ordinating O&S Committee met and considered feedback report from the Task & Finish Groups. Notes from the Task and Finish Group meetings were not published with the agenda following receiving legal advice that It would be prejudicial to the Council to do so. The Chair would convene a meeting with the Interim Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, the Interim City Solicitor and

		<p>Also in July, a Task and Finish Group meeting of Corporate and Finance OSC would look at the budget pressures for the 2024-25, 2025-26 and 2026-27 municipal years. The meeting would also cover the Mid Term Financial Plan.</p>	<p>Monitoring Officer, as well as the Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services to discuss and raise the concerns by members regarding the non-publication of notes from the Task and Finish Groups.</p> <p>Between May – July 2025, each O&S Committee would hold meetings, in public, to review the implementation of the savings identified for 2024-25.</p> <p>From July onwards, Corporate & Finance Overview & Scrutiny Committee would consider a Scrutiny contribution to the 2025-26 Budget.</p>
--	--	--	---

FINANCE AND RESOURCES OSC

ACTION TRACKER 2023/24 – MARCH 2024

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
15-May-24	Job Evaluation and Pay Equity Update	A revised schedule with key milestones to be provided to the Committee so that progress towards meeting the April 2025 deadline could be monitored. <i>[Katy Fox/Richard Fitzjohn]</i>	Requested
	Oracle Re-implementation	A confidential note setting out the average daily rate for interim staff on the project	Requested

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		to be provided to the Committee. <i>[Fiona Greenway/Philip Macpherson)</i>	
14-Dec-23	Section 151 Officer Update on the Financial Position of the Council – December 2023	<p>The Interim Director of Finance (S151 Officer) to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the parameters set for Slough Borough Council and Croydon Council with regard to Council Tax increases and the analysis done of all councils that had issued notices; <p>A written response from the Assistant Director, Revenues, Benefits and Rents, on the criteria applied for setting the level of Council Tax Support.</p>	Requested
	Oracle Stabilisation Update	A written response to be provided to the Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care O&S Committee on the position regarding Council invoices and payments – is the Council invoicing and receiving payments on time, are they being tracked, and what is the impact on the Council’s finances?).	Requested
07-Sep-23	Oracle Stabilisation Update	All reports relating to Oracle (external auditors’ review, CfGS wider governance	Ongoing – to be included in work programme.

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
		review and management review) to be shared with Chair of Finance & Resources OSC (this links with the request from the July meeting - see below).	CfGS Governance Review published for Cabinet on 12 December.
	Job Evaluation – Permanent Pay Equity	A request was made for the document prepared by Legal detailing the chronology of how the Equal Pay issue has manifested itself over a period of years, to be shared with Committee members. It was agreed this would be picked up with the Monitoring Officer.	Response received: Chronology may be available by end of January.
27-Jul-23	Action Tracker	List of regalia and artefacts to be provided.	A follow-up request has been made.
	Medium Term Financial Plan Update and Implications of Equal Pay	The timescales for the whistleblowing investigation, management review, Governance Review and the two pieces of work being done by External Audit around value for money on Oracle and Equal Pay to be provided to the Chair and that when they conclude the reports be brought to Committee.	CfGS Governance Review published for Cabinet on 12 December.

Date	Agenda Item	Action	Update
	Oracle Stabilisation Update	Once the management review is concluded, the report to be brought to Committee.	To be programmed – date to be confirmed.

29-Jun-23	Developing the Finance and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme 2023/24	Discussion on Equal Pay - the following information to be provided: 1. Response from the Leader to the Committee's request to be consulted on the work on Values Framework.	Values Framework still in progress.
-----------	---	--	-------------------------------------