



## Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

**Chair:** Cllr Sir Albert Bore

**Deputy Chair:** Cllr. Kerry Jenkins

**Committee Members:** Cllrs: Akhlaq Ahmed, Deidre Alden, Mick Brown, Jack Deakin, Roger Harmer, Mohammed Idrees, Kerry Jenkins, Chaman Lal, Ewan Mackey, Saima Suleman, Alex Yip

**Officer Support:** Interim Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services: Christian Scade, (07517 550013)

Senior Overview & Scrutiny Manager: Fiona Bottrill, (07395884487)

Scrutiny Manager: Amelia Murray (07825979253)

## 1 Terms of Reference

1.1 As per City Council on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022 the Committee's Terms of Reference is to "plan and co-ordinate the work of all the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. To fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning governance (including transparency, regional working and partnerships): citizens (including communications and public engagement); performance; customer services; social cohesion; equalities and emergency planning." These functions include:

- giving such guidance to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in any cases of uncertainty, as to work which they should or should not be undertaking, as may be necessary to achieve such co-ordination, including the allocation of "call-in" to the appropriate Committee;
- determining, in any cases of uncertainty, the allocation of responsibility for specific tasks between the Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- ensuring (by means, for example, of issuing appropriate guidance and/or instructions) that the Overview & Scrutiny Committees pay proper attention in



their work to the consideration of key cross cutting issues, in particular equalities, transparency and improvement;

- publishing each year an Annual Programme of major scrutiny inquiries as suggested by individual Overview and Scrutiny Committees following consideration of the Council Plan and priorities;
- agreeing the establishment of any task & finish groups; and
- considering overview and scrutiny development, working practices and constitutional arrangements.

## 2 Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 To enable the Committee to:
- 2.2 Review the work programme for the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee and update members on the work programmes of the other Scrutiny Committees and the Scrutiny Inquiries that have been agreed.

## 3 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee:
- 3.2 Reviews and agree any amendments to the work programme for the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 Reviews the work programmes for the Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity, Education and Children's Social Care, Economy and Skills, Health and Adult Care, Housing and Neighbourhoods, Resources, Transport and Sustainability Overview and Scrutiny Committees as set out in Appendix 2
- 3.4 Note the update on the Scrutiny Inquiries in section 7 of the report.

## 4 Background

- 4.1 At the start of the municipal year each Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered their work programme and the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed 4 scrutiny Inquiries that will be undertaken during 2022/23. At the July meeting of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee members were asked to consider the cross-cutting issues that had been identified, and this has also informed the Committee work programmes.



## 5 Co-ordinating Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

- 5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the draft work programme for 2022/23 as agreed at the July meeting of the Co-ordinating OSC and in consultation with the Chair. Members are asked to review the work programme and the items to be scheduled and agree any amendments.

## 6 Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes

- 6.1 The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee terms of reference include the duty to plan and co-ordinate the work of all the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The work programmes for the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees are attached as Appendix 2 to enable Members to consider the range and scope of issues that will be scrutinised and identify any gaps or duplication to be raised with Committee<sup>1</sup>.
- 6.2 The cross-cutting issues reported to the July meeting of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee were considered by the Chair and the following decisions made:
- Budget Scrutiny – This is set out within the terms of reference for the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee which will have the responsibility to carry out scrutiny of the budget proposals for 2023/24 during the consultation process. If other Overview and Scrutiny Committees want to consider specific budget proposals within their remit this will be considered at a meeting before the Resources Committee meeting in January.
  - Any scrutiny of the City of Nature policy or implementation will be carried out by the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
  - Children and Young People's Mental Health: The terms of reference of the Education and Children's Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes children and young people's health and wellbeing. Therefore, when the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertakes scrutiny of children's social care (under the overview and scrutiny role set out in the National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) members of the Education and Children's Social Care Committee will be invited to attend.
  - Commonwealth Games Legacy: Where issues relating to the economic, employment and skills legacy Members of the Economy and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be invited to attend.

---

<sup>1</sup> Scrutiny Work Programme are live documents and may be updated prior to further Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings in September.



- Monitoring implementation of the recommendations of the Scrutiny inquiry of Council-owned Assets: The monitoring of the recommendations for this Inquiry will be carried out by the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The cross-cutting issue of equalities is an area of work that will continue to be developed. A key element of this is the Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business Action Plan and this will inform further issues that Scrutiny Committees may want to consider. The Scrutiny Team are working with the Equalities and Cohesion Team to look at how best to take these options forward and Scrutiny continues to contribute to this area of work.

The other cross cutting issues of Route to Zero and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic are still being worked on to ensure these are considered appropriately across the Committees and Inquiries.

In addition, the issue of domestic abuse was considered by the Scrutiny Chairs and a further discussion will take place with the Chairs of the Housing and Neighbourhood and Education and Children's Social Care to determine the lead Committee and an update will be provided to the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee in due course.

- 6.3 The Committee Work Programmes attached as Appendix 2 set out that the agenda items that were not considered at the Co-ordinating, Housing and Neighbourhoods and Commonwealth Games, Culture and Physical Activity Scrutiny Committees in September, due to the period on national mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth II and have been re-scheduled to the next Committee Meeting.

## 7 Scrutiny Inquiries 2022/23

- 7.1 At the July meeting of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed 4 issues for Scrutiny Inquiries to be undertaken during 2022/23. The membership of the Task and Finish Groups that will carry out this work has been agreed as set out below:

<b>Inquiry</b>	<b>Committees Involved</b>	<b>Members</b>
Child Criminal Exploitation	Members from: Education & Children's Social Care O&S Committee	Cllrs: Hughes (Chair) Bano, Jan Moledina, Morrall
Children & Young People's Mental Health	Members from: Health & Social Care O&S Committee* and Education & Children's Social Care O&S Committee	Cllrs: Brown (Chair), Bermingham, Hartley, Moore, Morrall, Pritchard, Tilsley (Deputy Chair)
CWG Health & Wellbeing Legacy	Members from: CWG, Culture & Physical Activity O&S Committee* and Health & Social Care O&S Committee	Cllrs: Deakin (Chair), Brown, Jan, Moore (Deputy Chair), Shergill



Skills & Employment	Members from: Economy & Skills O&S Committee	Cllrs: Suleman (Chair), Aziz, Brennan, Knowles, Morrall (Deputy Chair to be agreed at first T&F Group meeting)
---------------------	---	---

\*indicates the lead Committee where the task and finish group includes members from more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 7.2 Scoping for the inquiries started during July and August, however the Task and Finish Group meetings planned to take place early September have been postponed due to the period of national mourning. These meeting will be re-arranged, and the Terms of Reference brought to the Lead Committee in October.
- 7.3 In line with the Scrutiny Framework all members will be informed of the scope of the Scrutiny Inquiries and invited to contribute. A call for evidence will also be made to enable members of the public and other organisations to contribute to the Inquiries.

## 8 Request(s) for Call In / Councillor Call for Action / Petitions Received (if any)

- 8.1 There are no other meetings scheduled at this time.

### Call in Meetings:

---

*None scheduled*

### Petitions

---

*None scheduled*

### Councillor Call for Action requests

---

*None scheduled*

It is suggested that the Committee approves Friday at 10.00am as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions

## 9 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

- 9.1 Since the implementation of the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Forward Plan, scrutiny members have found the Plan to be a useful tool in identifying potential agenda items.



9.2 The Committee may wish to consider whether issues currently listed on the Forward Plan require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny. This can be viewed in full via Forward Plans ([cmis.uk.com](https://cmis.uk.com)).

## 10 Legal Implications

10.1 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

## 11 Financial Implications

11.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

## 12 Public Sector Equality Duty

12.1 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.

12.2 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.

12.3 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.

## 13 Use of Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1 – Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2022/2023

13.2 Appendices 2 – Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

