



Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee: Work Programme 2022/23

Chair:	Cllr Mohammed Idrees
Deputy Chair:	Cllr Marje Bridle (elect)
Committee Members:	Cllrs: Kerry Brewer, Marje Bridle, Ray Goodwin, Roger Harmer, Saqib Khan, Lauren Rainbow and Ken Wood
Officer Support:	Overview and Scrutiny Manager: Amelia Murray (0782 5979253) Scrutiny Officer: Jayne Bowles: (303 4810) Committee Manager: Mandeep Marwaha (303 5950)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The remit of the Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee is 'to fulfil the functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning housing; waste management; neighbourhood management; parks and allotments; localisation; bereavement services and community safety'.
- 1.2 This Committee shall be the Crime and Disorder Committee (Police and Justice Act 2006).
- 1.3 This report provides details of the proposed scrutiny work programme for 2022/23.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee considers its work programme, attached at Appendix 1, and considers whether any amendments are required.
- 2.2 Subject to the outcome from the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8th July, confirm the membership of the Task and Finish Group to support the proposed in-depth inquiry 'Cleaner Streets'.

3 Background

- 3.1 *"Scrutiny is based on the principle that someone who makes a decision...should not be the only one to review or challenge it. Overview is founded on the belief that an open, inclusive, member-led approach to policy review...results in better policies in the long run."* (Jessica Crowe, former Executive Director, Centre for Governance and Scrutiny).
- 3.2 Developing an effective work programme is the bedrock of an effective scrutiny function. Done well, it can help lay the foundations for targeted, inclusive and timely work on issues of local



importance, where scrutiny can add value. Done poorly, scrutiny can end up wasting time and resources on issues where the impact of any scrutiny work done is likely to be minimal.

- 3.3 As a result, the careful selection and prioritisation of work is essential if the scrutiny function is to be successful, add value and retain credibility.

4 Work Programme

- 4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the future work programme for this Committee based on the items identified at the informal meeting of the Committee in June 2022.
- 4.2 Members are asked to consider the draft work programme and agree any amendments. The work programme will be reviewed at each meeting of the Co-ordinating Scrutiny Committee.

5 Inquiries

- 5.1 A proposed inquiry 'Cleaner Streets' has been put forward by the Committee to the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Appendix 2 sets out the outline proposal.
- 5.2 The Co-ordinating Committee will be considering all proposals on 8th July 2022 with a view to confirming an achievable inquiry programme for Overview and Scrutiny. A maximum of 4 inquiries will take place across all Overview and Scrutiny Committees at any one time.
- 5.3 In the event the Cleaner Streets inquiry is confirmed as one of these 4 inquiries, this Committee will need to complete scoping and evidence gathering for this proposal during July and August 2022. This will ensure the inquiry can be completed in a timely manner. To achieve this, the Committee will need to identify the membership of the Inquiry Task and Finish Group.
- 5.4 Six inquiry proposals have been submitted to Co-ordinating Committee (including the Cleaner Streets proposal). The titles of all of these proposals are outlined below:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Inquiry Proposal
Education and Children's Social Care (1 Inquiry Proposal)	Child exploitation
Economy and Skills (1 Inquiry Proposal)	Ensuring the skills agenda for Birmingham meets the needs of current and future employers and job opportunities
Health and Social Care (3 Inquiry Proposals)	Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and the Commonwealth Games Legacy Children and Young People's Mental Health including the impact of the pandemic



	Dementia: Why is dementia different for women?
Housing and Neighbourhoods (1 Inquiry Proposal)	Cleaner Streets

6 Other Meetings

6.1 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 Thursday at 2.00pm 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

7 Forward Plan for Cabinet Decisions

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 The Committee may wish to consider whether any of these issues require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny. The Forward Plan can be viewed in full via Forward Plans (cmis.uk.com)

8 Legal Implications

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

9 Financial Implications

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



10 Public Sector Equality Duty

10.1 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.

10.2 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.

10.3 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.

11 Use of Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 – Work Programme for 2022/2023

11.2 Appendix 2 – Cleaner Streets Initial Inquiry Proposal