

Birmingham City Council

Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee

5 July 2023



Subject: Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed work programme for the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2023-24, based on the Committee's meeting in June 2023. Appendix 1 outlines the topics identified, aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny to achieve these objectives.
- 1.2 The report also refers to other topics, which the Committee has identified, for future consideration, and this will be continuously updated during the year.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee:
 - Notes the information set out in Appendix 1 and identifies if any further topics need to be added to the menu of topics for the Committee to explore over the coming year.
 - Agrees, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider during September – October 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
 - Identifies, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair, the issues that the Committee will consider in November 2023, the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny.
 - Notes, subject to further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Co-

ordinating O&S to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.

3 Background

3.1 The [statutory guidance for local government overview and scrutiny](#) sets out the role it can play in holding an authority's decision makers to account. This makes it fundamentally important to the successful functioning of local democracy.

3.2 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 improvements in public services.

3.3 The role and functions of Overview and Scrutiny Committees are outlined in [The City Council's Constitution | Birmingham City Council](#) They will:

- Make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council, the Executive and/or other organisations in connection with the discharge of the functions specified in their terms of reference.
- Consider any matter covered in their terms of reference that may affect or be likely to have an effect on the citizens of Birmingham; relevant to the Council's strategic objectives; relevant to major issues faced by officers in managing a function of the Council; and likely to make contribution to moving the Council forward and achieving key performance targets.

3.4 Effective scrutiny needs to add value. A well planned and timely work programme enables Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be involved at the right time and in the right way, and ensure their involvement is meaningful and can influence the outcome.

3.5 Members often have a number of topics suggested to them and are therefore required to **prioritise** matters for consideration. The Scrutiny Framework sets out the following factors to be considered:

- Public interest: concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen.
- Ability to change: priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically influence.
- Performance: priority should be given to areas in which the Council and Partners are not performing well.
- Extent: priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or a large part of the city.
- Replication: work programme must take account of what else is happening to avoid duplication.

Looking Ahead

- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committees will identify a 'menu' of issues (including policy development, policy review, issues of accountability and statutory functions) at the start of the year. Each Committee should then regularly review their 'menu' and decide which issues need to be examined further, and how that work would be undertaken. Scrutiny activities should be thorough and undertaken in a timely manner.

Scrutiny Methods

- 3.7 There are a range of ways to undertake scrutiny. The approach for 2023-24 enables flexible scrutiny and outlines a shift from monthly formal meetings to a combination of approaches. The Committee will choose the most effective scrutiny method to achieve the desired aims and objectives for each topic.
- 3.8 Based on Statutory Guidance published in 2019, different scrutiny methods include (but are not limited to):
- A single item, or items, on a committee agenda – this method fits more closely with the “overview” aspect of the Scrutiny function and provides limited opportunity for effective scrutiny. It is most appropriate for specific issues where the committee wants to maintain a watching brief.
 - A single item meeting, either as the committee or a more limited number of Members. It has the capacity to enhance the previous option by taking evidence from a number of witnesses.
 - A task and finish day - provided that these are properly focused, they ensure Councillors can swiftly reach conclusions and make recommendations and are effective even for complex topics.
 - A task and finish review – this is an enhancement of the previous option being held over four or six meetings spread over a limited number of months.

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- 3.9 The Committee's Terms of Reference is to fulfil its functions as they relate to any policies, services and activities concerning:
- The collection and removal of waste from residential and other properties within the city
 - Pest control
 - Street cleansing, litter prevention, fly tipping/ placarding removal and enforcement, graffiti removal, scrap yard and motor salvage operator enforcement
 - Parks and allotments
 - Local events held in parks

- Cemeteries and crematoria, mortuary and Coroners Court services, Register Office services
- Local Development Plans, Neighbourhood Plans, Development briefs, localisation
- Commonwealth Games Legacy framework

3.10 This Committee shall be the Crime and Disorder Committee (Police and Justice Act 2006) as referred to in the [Council Constitution](#). The [Crime and Disorder \(Overview and Scrutiny\) Regulations 2009](#) provides information to Local Authorities about how this function should be carried out. In fulfilling this function, the Committee will fulfil its functions as it relates to:

- Community safety, anti-social behaviour, fear of crime, support for victims of crime
- Relationships with the Police and Crime Commissioner and West Midlands Police
- Youth offending
- Domestic abuse

3.11 The Committee is chaired by Cllr Shabrana Hussain, and its membership comprises Cllrs Deirdre Alden, Gurdial Singh Atwal, Marcus Bernasconi, Kerry Brewer, Marj Bridle, Ray Goodwin and Izzy Knowles.

4 Work Programme 2023-24

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the topics the Committee will consider over the next few months, and also outlines future items for consideration.

4.2 The Committee may decide to add further items to the work programme during the course of the year. When considering this, the Committee is advised to consider where it can best add value through scrutiny, and how it can prioritise topics for consideration based on the Scrutiny Framework referred to in 3.5.

4.3 The Council's latest [Forward Plan](#) may assist Members in identifying future topics. The following reports are of particular relevance to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

ID Number	Title	Proposed Date of Decision
007349/2020	Waste Vehicle Replacement Programme	10 Oct 23
011525/2023	P0403 Package 4: Processing of Dry Mixed Recycling (DMR)	05 Sep 23

4.4 Overview and Scrutiny Chairs are advised to maintain regular engagement with Cabinet Members to enable flexibility to be built into the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, so as to respond to the Council's policy priorities in a timely way.

5 Any Finance Implications

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

6 Any Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report.

7 Any Equalities Implications

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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; and whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people are being realised.
- 7.4 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.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1: Work Programme 2023-24 - July

9 Background Papers

- 9.1 [Birmingham City Council Constitution](#)
- 9.2 Birmingham City Council Overview and Scrutiny Framework April 2021

Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2023/24

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
July	Fly-tipping Enforcement	<p>Outline the current position in relation to fly-tipping with specific regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifying dedicated resources and which wards they are deployed in; Enforcement approach and how this is developing; How cameras are being used, and the specific impact of Grimewatch. <p>Understand if/ how this approach is making a difference to reduce fly tipping.</p> <p>Outline progress towards Cleaner Streets recommendations</p>	<p>Committee Meeting single item: 5 July 2023 at 2pm</p> <p>Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House</p> <p>Deadline for Papers: 22 June 2023</p>	Darren Share, Director, Street Scene		<p>The Committee will review this information with a view to considering whether they wish to undertake a more detailed inquiry.</p> <p>Related work from 2022-23: Reducing Fly tipping (April 2023)</p> <p>Cleaner Streets (April 2023)</p> <p>Performance Information (presented to Neighbourhoods O&S Committee, June 2023 by Programmes, Performance and Improvement)</p> <p>Co-ordinating O&S Customer Services (waste)</p>
July	Community Safety Localities Approach	<p>Inform the development of a new localities approach with particular focus on how ward councillors can contribute towards identifying local priorities, problem solving and reviewing impact</p>	<p>Committee Meeting single item: 5 July 2023 at 2pm</p> <p>Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House</p>	Pamela, Acting Head of Partnership Community Safety Team		<p>This refers to the Local Partnership Delivery Groups which operate across the city.</p> <p>An all-day partnership event took place on 22 May 2023 to inform this new approach. Members were invited to attend.</p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
			Deadline for Papers: 22 June 2023			<p>The Neighbourhoods O&S Committee is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for Birmingham. This will contribute towards discharging its duties.</p> <p>The statutory requirements, as Crime and Disorder Committee, are outlined here.</p>
August	Youth Justice	Inform the annual Youth Justice Plan	<p>Other - Briefing: Date/Time TBC</p> <p>Venue: TBC</p>	Janine Saleh, Head of Birmingham Youth Offending Service, Birmingham Children's Trust	Dionne McAndrew, Assistant Director Vulnerable Young People, Birmingham Children's Trust	<p>This is an annual report. The most recent report was approved by Council in October 2022.</p> <p>A Cabinet Report for the Youth Justice Plan is currently scheduled for September 23, and then will be presented to Council. The intention is to bring this report to pre-decision Scrutiny in early August when the draft of the report is available. Date to be confirmed.</p> <p>As there are no Committee meetings scheduled at this time, the Chair has requested a hybrid briefing. Members of the Education, Children and Young People's O&S Committee will also be invited.</p>

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
September	Cleaner Streets	Outline progress towards the Cleaner Streets recommendations Understand any impact of recommendations	Committee Meeting single item: Agenda at Neighbourhoods OSC Committee Meeting on 6 September 2023 Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House Deadline: 25 August 2023	Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Majid Mahmood	Darren Share, Director Street Scene	In February 2023, the Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee agreed key findings and recommendations for Cleaner Streets. This had followed informal best practice sessions with Derby, Rochdale and Wigan Local Authorities. In April 2023, Cabinet Member for Environment, Cllr Majid Mahmood attended O&S Committee to provide a formal response to the recommendations, and agreed to report progress to future committees.
September	Localisation	To be confirmed following discussion at July O&S Committee	To be confirmed following discussion at July O&S Committee	To be confirmed following discussion at July O&S Committee	To be confirmed following discussion at July O&S Committee	The Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee discussed this item in April 2023. Related strategies, policies and plans can be found here .
October	Delays in Births and Deaths registrations	Provide an overview of, and demonstrate the impact of, the current engagement and work undertaken with the Coroner, partners and communities on steps to eliminate delays within the service.	Committee Meeting single item: 4 October 2023 Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House	Sajeela Naseer, Director of Regulation and Enforcement	None identified	Following Council Resolution on 14 June, a report responding to the Motion was presented to Housing and Neighbourhoods O&S Committee on 26 September. A summary of the discussion is here . The Committee requested a further update in 4-6 months' time.

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
		Outline the current progress towards developing a new mortuary facility for the city, including a permanent digital autopsy scanner.	Deadline: 25 September 2023			
December	Birmingham Community Safety Partnership Annual Report	Review the annual Birmingham Community Safety Partnership annual report **The Committee may identify specific areas they wish to consider at future meetings**	Committee Meeting single item: 6 December 2023 Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House Deadline: 27 November 2023	To be confirmed following BCSP Executive Board July	To be confirmed following BCSP Executive Board July	The Neighbourhoods O&S Committee is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for Birmingham. The statutory requirements, as Crime and Disorder Committee, are outlined here .
December	Domestic Abuse	Consider the proposed Domestic Abuse Prevention Strategy	Committee Meeting single item: 6 December 2023 Venue: Committee Room 6, Council House Deadline: 27 November 2023	Kalvinder Kaur, Assistant Director	Shirin Marashi, Senior Commissioning Officer	A new Domestic Abuse Strategy is scheduled to be discussed at Cabinet for approval in January-February 2024. This had initially been earmarked for December, but this will be too late as the strategy will be nearly complete. Therefore, the proposed timeline to present to O&S Committee is September – October 23. Co-ordinating O&S Committee held a single theme meeting in February to review the previous strategy and

Month	Item/Topic	Aims and Objectives	Scrutiny Method	Cabinet Member/ Lead Officer	Other Witnesses	Additional Information and Outcome*
						input in the early stages of this strategy's development. A summary is provided here . A roundtable with service providers had also taken place to inform this review.

*Outcome: This will be populated once the item/topic has been completed. It will highlight the added value and impact.

Menu of Options for Future Consideration

The following items had been identified as potential topics for future consideration. This approach enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to remain flexible and respond in a timely manner to emerging issues.

This is a live work programme work programme. New items may be added, or items removed during the course of the year. Proposed aims and objectives as well as scrutiny methodology may also be subject to change.

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
Customer Services –Bereavement Services	To be confirmed following July's Co-ordinating O&S Committee. Currently: Monitor the progress and impact of the recommendations from the Customers Services O&S programme	To be confirmed	Co-ordinating O&S Committee convened Task and Finish groups to identify, and monitor progress of, recommendations to improve customer services in 4 areas including Bereavement Services. A final Task and Finish group took place on 12 June 2023, and report will be presented to Co-ordinating O&S in July. Following this, it is intended that Neighbourhoods O&S Committee takes forward this work for Bereavement Services in the future. This had initially been earmarked to be considered in October, however the Committee may wish to consider

Item/ Topic	Proposed Aims and Objectives	Proposed Scrutiny Method	Additional Information
			this further following July's Co-ordinating O&S Committee.
Customer Services – Waste	To be confirmed following July's Co-ordinating O&S Committee. Currently: Monitor the progress and impact of the recommendations from the Customers Services O&S programme	To be confirmed.	<p>Co-ordinating O&S Committee convened Task and Finish groups to identify, and monitor progress of, recommendations to improve customer services in 4 areas including Waste.</p> <p>A final Task and Finish group took place on 9 June 2023, and report will be presented to Co-ordinating O&S in July. Following this, it is intended that Neighbourhoods O&S Committee takes forward this work for Waste in the future.</p> <p>Neighbourhoods O&S Committee will need to determine how they will carry out this work.</p>

Scrutiny Method Options:

Committee meeting - single item

Committee meeting - single theme

Task and Finish Group (outline number of meetings)

On location

Other - (describe)