

Scrutiny Overview Committee

Agenda Item No. 6

14 June 2018

Areas of focus for 2018/19

Ward(s) All

Portfolios: Cllr. M. Bird - Leader
Cllr Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Cllr Perry – Community, Leisure and Culture
Cllr Harris – Personnel and Business Support

Report:

The purpose of this item is to provide relevant background information for Members so that the Committee's areas of focus can be agreed for 2018/19.

It is important for Members to consider the wide range of potential issues within their remit and which they could consider during the year.

When agreeing items, it is important that consideration is given to the level of value the Committee could add taking into account the tools and performance measures available to support them in their work.

Remit

Following Annual Council, the remit of the Committee has been agreed as follows:

All aspects and general services related to Council resources and transformation.

The Scrutiny Overview Committee shall:

- *Take an overarching view on strategic plans and services, including:*
 - *Delivery of the Corporate Plan and its priorities*
 - *The Council transformation programme*
 - *Corporate finances*
- *The scrutinising of performance in relation to the following Corporate Plan priorities:*
 - *Internal focus – all council services are efficient and effective.*
 - *Communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and community cohesion.*
- *Scrutiny of the responsible authorities in terms of how they are tackling*

crime and disorder for the benefit of the local communities (no less than once a year) as required by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 which came into force for local authorities in England on 30 April 2009;

The Scrutiny Overview Committee shall:

- Lead on the planning and co-ordination of the programme of activities and in depth studies of the Councils Overview and Scrutiny Committees ;*
- Hold discussions with Portfolio holders over matters such as pre-decision Scrutiny and the programme of policy reviews;*
- Act as a vehicle of mutual learning.*

A presentation will be provided at the meeting on 14 June 2018 providing more detail about the Committee's remit and the services that fall within it.

Items recommended from previous year

The following items were recommended for consideration by the committee in the last municipal year:

Housing White Paper

Consideration of a four yearly election cycle

Updated Government guidance on Overview and Scrutiny

Budget scrutiny

Monitoring the financial performance of the Council is a valuable and important task that Scrutiny Committees are ideally placed to perform. It assists Members in identifying areas of operation that are underperforming that may require scrutiny. Therefore it is suggested that the Committee receives a financial end-of-year outturn report and quarterly outturn forecasts throughout the year.

It is also suggested that the Committee considers the proposed 2019/20 revenue and capital budgets between October 2018 - January 2019.

Council performance

The Council's Corporate Plan 2018-2021, as agreed by the Council in February 2018, sets the strategic direction for the authority by reference to five priorities. Each priority has a number of measures allocated to it. Scrutiny committees may wish to consider monitoring progress against the measures that sit within their remit. It is the role of the Scrutiny Overview Committee to take an overarching view performance against all measures included in the Corporate Plan. An overview of these is included at Appendix 1 to this report.

Pre-scrutiny

A copy of the Forward Plans of key decisions from Walsall Council's Cabinet and the Black Country Joint Executive Committee are attached at Appendix 2 to this report. Updates of these will be provided to Committees at subsequent meetings. Members should consider the forthcoming decisions and consider if there are any issues that they may wish to review and seek to influence prior to the Cabinet making a decision on these matters.

Working Groups

A working group is an effective method for Members of Scrutiny Committees to consider an issue in depth over a number of months and to produce a final report and recommendations to the Committee. In due course the report and recommendations can be considered by the Cabinet and/or Council. The challenge for Members is selecting the right topic at the right time and to provide the working group with an achievable brief. Resource wise it is recommended that only one working group be established at a time.

Prioritisation

The remit of the Committee is very broad and the range of issues that could be considered during the year is vast. The challenge that Members face is in prioritising those issues that are the most important whilst still leaving sufficient capacity to address other issues that may arise during the year. To assist Members to manage the broad topics available, it is important that alternative methods of being informed and updated, away from Committee meetings, are used effectively. For example, Members could request briefing notes on particular topics thereby helping to create additional capacity for more substantial items at Committee meetings.

In terms of scheduling items, it is important that an agenda includes a manageable amount of business to enable the Committee to focus on topics in depth rather than to carry out superficial treatment that may require the Committee to revisit the topic at a later date.

Recommendations:

That Members consider the range of issues within this report and formulate and agree a work programme for the year.

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Appendix 1 – Corporate Plan Priorities, outcomes and measures



Ref	Outcomes	Measure
E1	An infrastructure and business environment that supports job creation and accessibility throughout Walsall, supporting company expansion, relocation and competitiveness through sustainable job creation	1 Number of jobs in our economy
		2 Business start up rates
		3 Business closure rates
		4 Number of Businesses assisted / supported
E2	Residents are supported to possess the skills required to enter into and progress in work, through the delivery of the Walsall Inclusive Economic Growth Programme	5 Number of local people supported through Walsall Works
		6 Number of local people supported through Impact
		7 Number of people placed / supported into employment
		8 Number of Apprenticeships supported / created
E3	Our town and district centres offer a distinctive and vibrant mix of retail, leisure, business, community and cultural opportunities, and new housing	9 Commercial floorspace (sqm) created per annum
		10 New homes developed per annum

People



have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities.

Ref	Outcomes	Measure
P1	Enhancing quality of life for people with care and support needs and those with long term conditions	11 Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support and those receiving direct payments
		12 Proportion of adults with a Primary Support reason of LD support in paid employment
		13 Proportion of adults in contact with secondary Mental Health services in paid employment
P2	Delaying and reducing the need for care and support	14 Long term support needs met by admission to residential and nursing care homes per 100,000 population
P3	People recover from episodes of health or injury	15 Proportion of older people aged 65+ who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services
		16 Delayed transfers of care from hospital
P4	The most vulnerable are protected from avoidable harm, including treating and caring for people in a safe environment	17 Number of safeguarding referrals and open safeguarding cases
		18 Number of Serious Case Reviews



Ref	Outcomes	Measure
I1	Modern Services	19 Customer Satisfaction with all Council Services
		20 Percentage of customers who feel it is easy to access Council services
		21 The number of customers who engage with the council digitally
I2	A Resilient Council	22 Percentage of employee appraisals completed
		23 Level of employee engagement, who are PROUD to work for the Council and embody the Council Values
		24 The percentage of employees responding positively that 'I have the opportunity to maximise my potential'



Ref	Outcomes	Measure
Ch1	Children will be ready for school	25 Percentage of pupils reaching a good level of development (GLD) at the end of reception
Ch2	The gaps in educational attainment between the least and most deprived communities will be narrowed and for all under achieving groups	26 The progress Free School Meals children make
Ch3	Right children looked after, for the right length of time in the right placement	27 Average length of time in care
Ch4	Care leavers are economically active citizens of their community	28 Percentage of care leavers not in education employment or training (NEETs)
Ch5	Young People are prevented from entering the criminal justice system	29 Reduction of first time entrants

Communities



**are prospering and resilient
with all housing needs met
in safe and healthy places
that build a strong sense of
belonging and cohesion.**

Ref	Outcomes	Measure
Co1	Enable access and use of green spaces to improve health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation	30 Employment rates
		31 % Inactive adults doing 0 x 30 mins exercise weekly
		32 Number of activity groups using green spaces
Co2	Reduce atmospheric pollution to improve long-term health of the population	33 Pollution levels
Co3	Ensure all children are a healthy weight	34 Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children in Reception.
		35 Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children in Yr 6
Co4	Housing provision matches local need and reduces homelessness	36 Number of families with children presenting as statutory homeless
		37 Statutory homelessness – acceptances per 1000 households