

## Scrutiny Overview Committee

## Agenda Item No. 6

13 June 2019

### Areas of focus for 2019/20

Ward(s) All

**Portfolios:** Cllr. M. Bird - Leader  
Cllr Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration  
Cllr Perry – Community, Leisure and Culture  
Cllr Chatta – 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 2019/20.

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 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:

Walsall Proud Programme – quarterly updates

Achievements with the former Walsall Plan

Figures on abuse, assaults, near miss accidents and workplace deaths experienced by staff including data on affected individuals with protected characteristics

### **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.

It is suggested that all Scrutiny Committees consider the financial outturn for 2018/19 and quarter 2 updates at a formal meeting. It is also suggested that quarter 1 and quarter 3 updates be circulated to Members outside of a formal meeting for information. Subject to the caveat that Members can request the reports to come to a Committee meeting if they wish, and that any significant budget pressures or changes will be raised with the Chair, to discuss the issue being formally reported to a Committee meeting.

### **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 which were reviewed, and in some cases updated, by Cabinet on 28 May 2019. 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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## Economy

Priority	Ref	Outcome	Measure Number	2018/19 Measure	2019/20 Measure	Reason for change (if applicable)
Economic Growth for all people, communities and businesses.	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.	Number of jobs in our economy.	No change
			2	Business start up rates.	Business start up rates.	No change
			3	Business closure rates.	Business closure rates.	No change
			4	Number of Businesses assisted / supported.	Number of Businesses assisted / supported.	No change
	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.	Number of local people supported through Walsall Works.	No change
			6	Number of local people supported through Impact.	Number of local people supported through Impact.	No change
			7	Number of people placed / supported into employment.	Number of people placed / supported into employment.	No change
			8	Number of Apprenticeships supported / created.	Number of Apprenticeships supported / created.	No change
	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 floor space (sqm) created per annum.	Commercial floor space (sqm) created per annum.	No change
			10	New homes created per annum.	New homes created per annum.	No change

## People

Priority	Ref	Outcome	Measure Number	2018/19 Measure	2019/20 Measure	Reason for change
People have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities.	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.	Proportion of people using social care who receive self-directed support and those receiving direct payments.	No change
			12	Proportion of adults with a primary support reason of LD support in paid employment	Total number of young adults in employment / education or training as a result of engagement with employment services (cumulative over year with breakdown of category if required).	Previously been using a national measure which is very specific in its cohort and did not reflect the true activity of the employment service and the outcomes for the service user.
			13	Proportion of adults in contact with secondary mental health services in paid employment	New engagements into employment services by disability.	Previously been using a national measure which is very specific in its cohort and did not reflect the true activity of the employment service and the outcomes for the service user.
	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.	No change

Priority	Ref	Outcome	Measure Number	2018/19 Measure	2019/20 Measure	Reason for change
People have increased independence, improved health and can positively contribute to their communities.	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.	Proportion of adults aged 18+ who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services.	Previously been using a national measure which is very specific in its cohort and did not reflect the totality of activity within the reablement service
			16	Delayed transfers of care from hospital.	Delayed transfers of care from hospital.	No change
	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	Percentage of people subject to a safeguarding enquiry who expressed a desired outcome.	The emphasis of the measure moves from Walsall's activity to that of the desired outcomes of the service user. This is a reflection of the making safeguarding personal agenda.
			18	Number of serious case reviews	Percentage of people subject to a safeguarding enquiry who expressed a desired outcome where the outcome was fully or partially achieved.	The emphasis of the measure moves from Walsall's activity to that of the desired outcomes of the service user. This is a reflection of the making safeguarding personal agenda.

## Internal Focus

Priority	Ref	Outcome	Measure Number	2018/19 Measure	2019/20 Measure	Reason for change
Internal Focus – All Council services are efficient and effective.	I1	Modern Services.	19	Customer Satisfaction with all Council Services.	Customer Satisfaction with all Council Services.	This is an aspirational measure and should remain, however not all customers are surveyed only a small number at FSS which is not reflective of all Council services. More work is required within services to capture satisfaction.
			20	Percentage of customers who feel it is easy to access Council services	The number of services available online	The new measure will capture the current digital offer and provide a baseline to expand our digital offer.
			21	The number of customers who engage with the council digitally	The number of customers who engage with the council digitally	This measure remains and will dovetail with the new No.20 measure
	I2	A resilient council.	22	Percentage of employee appraisals completed.	Percentage of employee appraisals completed.	No change.
			23	Level of employee engagement, who are PROUD to work for the Council and embody the Council Values.	Level of employee engagement, who are PROUD to work for the Council and embody the Council Values.	No change.
			24	The percentage of employees responding positively that 'I have the opportunity to maximise my potential'.	The percentage of employees responding positively that 'I have the opportunity to maximise my potential'.	No change.



## Children

Priority	Ref	Outcome	Measure Number	2018/19 Measure	2019/20 Measure	Reason for change
Children have the best possible start, are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.	Ch1	Children will be ready for school.	25	Percentage of pupils reaching a good level of development (GLD) at the end of reception.	Percentage of pupils reaching a good level of development (GLD) at the end of reception.	No change
	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.	The gap between attainment for children who are eligible for Free School Meals and those who are not eligible (KS2 RWM and KS4 Attainment 8).	Previous measure not meaningful in isolation and does not address the outcome around reducing gap as it does not compare outcomes to those children who are not receiving Free School Meals
	Ch3	Right children looked after, for the right length of time in the right placement.	27	Average length of time in care	Number / rate of children looked after.	As the average length of time in care indicator had a target set to reduce – however, as the population of children who are in care stabilises and reduces, then the average length of time in care would be expected to increase. It is therefore suggested that this measure is replaced.

Priority	Ref	Outcome	Measure Number	2018/19 Measure	2019/20 Measure	Reason for change
Children have the best possible start, are safe from harm, happy, healthy and learning well.	Ch4	Care leavers are economically active citizens of their community.	28	Percentage of care leavers not in education employment or training (NEETs).	Percentage of care leavers in education employment or training (EETs).	Looking at this indicator from the point of view of care leavers that are in Education, Employment and Training is more positive and celebrates achievement rather than measuring failure.
	Ch5	Young People are prevented from entering the criminal justice system.	29	Number of first time entrants - youth offending.	Number of first time entrants - youth offending.	No change

Appendix 1

Priority	Ref	Outcome	Measure Number	2018/19 Measures	2019 / 20 Measures	Reason for change
Communities are prospering and resilient with all housing needs met in safe and healthy places that build a strong sense of belonging and cohesion.	Co1	Enable access and use of green spaces to improve health and wellbeing and reduce social isolation.	30	Employment rates.	Employment rates.	No change.
			31	% inactive adults doing less than 30 mins exercise weekly.	% inactive adults doing less than 30 mins exercise weekly.	No change.
			32	Utilisation of green spaces for exercise/physical activity reasons.	Utilisation of green spaces for exercise/physical activity reasons.	No change.
	Co2	Reduce atmospheric pollution to improve long-term health of the population.	33	Pollution levels (micro grammes per cubic metre) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- M6 Jct 9</li> <li>- Ring Road</li> <li>- Bloxwich Lane</li> <li>- Alumwell</li> <li>- W'ton Road</li> <li>- Woodlands School</li> </ul>	Pollution levels (micro grammes per cubic metre) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- M6 Jct 9</li> <li>- Bloxwich Lane</li> <li>- Wolverhampton Road - -</li> <li>- Woodlands School</li> </ul>	Measure is the same as 2018/19 but the areas where pollution levels are measured have been updated to reflect current locations in use.

Appendix 1

Priority	Ref	Outcome	Measure Number	2018/19 Measures	2019 / 20 Measures	Reason for change
	Co3	Ensure all children are a healthy weight.	34	Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children in reception	Proportion of children in reception that are a healthy weight (annual measure).	The new measure is a positive health indicator, with no stigma attached.
			35	Prevalence of overweight and obesity among children in Year 6	Proportion of children in year 6 that are a healthy weight (annual measure).	However, it will still enable the monitoring of unhealthy weight/childhood obesity.  The new wording is in line with the ambition of using positive and motivational language in our reporting.
	Co4	Housing meets need, is affordable, safe and warm	36	<i>Not applicable as outcome has changed.</i>	Total number of households in Temporary Accommodation per 1000 households.	New measures due to changes in national data collection requirements and to reflect the updated outcome with focus on not just tackling homelessness but also on considering quality of housing.
			37	<i>Not applicable as outcome has changed.</i>	Percentage of dwellings with newly registered Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) that are in the lowest bandings of F and G (most energy inefficient).	

NB: Outcome Co4 has been revised due to changes in national data collection requirements. The updated outcome focusses on not just tackling homelessness but also on considering quality of housing.

