

Divisions Affected – All

OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 JUNE 2022

WORK PROGRAMME

2022/23

Report by Director of Law And Governance

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to: -**
 - a) Agree the Committee's work programme for the municipal year 2022/23;
 - b) Note that the work programme is a document that is subject to change and Members can add, subtract and defer items as necessary;
 - c) Agree to consider the work programme at each meeting of the Committee over the course of the municipal year alongside the Council's Forward Plan;
 - d) Agree to undertake further engagement with the County Council, NHS and Healthwatch colleagues to refine the programme and timings.

Executive Summary

2. Sound preparation is essential to delivering an efficient and impactful overview and scrutiny function within the resources it has at its disposal. This paper provides the Committee with a considered working draft of its work programme for the year ahead.

Background

3. Setting a Work Programme for each of the Council's scrutiny committees is an important stage in the Scrutiny process. An effective Scrutiny work programme will identify the key topics that Scrutiny will consider over the coming year. A well-planned Scrutiny Work Programme will help both Members and Officers plan their workloads as well as providing a clear picture to the public of planned Scrutiny activity.

4. Scrutiny is a Member-led function within the Council and as such it is up to the scrutiny committee itself to determine its work programme. It is vital that members of Scrutiny take responsibility for both drawing up and managing their own work programme. The Work Programme is not approved by any body other than the Scrutiny Committee itself. The work programme is a document that is subject to change and Members can add, subtract, and defer items as necessary.
5. Committee and Executive Members, as well as Chief Officers at the County Council, have participated throughout the work programming process to arrive at the draft for consideration by the Committee. There remains much work still to do, particularly in respect of its work on public health, but that can be clarified in due course.
6. The Oxfordshire Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee shared an early list of topics for Member inquiry with NHS colleagues on 4 May and received initial feedback but it should undertake further, more considered engagement as part of the development and timings associated with the programme. That will extend to colleagues at Healthwatch.

Corporate Priorities

7. Improving health and wellbeing of residents and reducing health inequalities are stated ambitions within the Council's Strategic Plan agreed in February 2022.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Comments checked by: Lorna Baxter

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Legal Implications

9. The law states that a Scrutiny Committee can:
 - (a) • Require a council officer or councillors to attend to answer questions
 - (b) • Require information to be provided that is held by the council
 - (c) • Require responses to recommendationsSpecific Health Scrutiny powers set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provide:
 - Power to scrutinise health bodies and authorities in the local area
 - Power to require members or officers of local health bodies to provide information and to attend health scrutiny meetings to answer questions
 - Duty of NHS to consult scrutiny on major service changes and provide feedback on consultations

Comments checked by: Anita Bradley

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Staff Implications

10. None arising from this report.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

11. None arising from this report.

Sustainability Implications

12. None arising from this report.

Risk Management

13. If Members do not have a work programme it cannot be guaranteed that the Committee will operate in a planned way and have a positive impact on the planning, provision and delivery of health services.

Consultations

14. None arising from this report.

Anita Bradley
Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex: None

Background papers: None

Other Documents: None

Contact Officer: Helen Mitchell, Interim Scrutiny Manager

May 2022