

South Lakeland District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Friday, 17 January 2019
Overview and Scrutiny Progress Report

Portfolio:	Cllr Vicky Hughes – Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report from:	David Sykes – Director of Strategy, Innovation and Resources
Report Author:	Linda Fisher – Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer)
Wards:	N/A
Forward Plan:	N/A

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 By monitoring the work being carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and progress made by Cabinet and officers in implementing the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as well as the contents of the Forward Plan, Members are able to retain sight of proposals and outcomes. The regular reviewing of recommendations made by Members will also ensure that the effectiveness of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is both maintained and monitored.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that the following be noted:-

- (1) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s Work Programme 2019/20;**
- (2) the progress made by Cabinet and officers in implementing the recommendations of the Committee; and**
- (3) the contents of the latest Forward Plan published on 7 January 2020.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 Overview

- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee plays a key role in reviewing policies and performance in delivering services, managing finances and other aspects of the Council. Each year, the Committee sets an annual Work Programme which combines both formal meetings and in-depth reviews (current Work Programme shown at Appendix 1). The Committee primarily makes recommendations to Cabinet, but can also make recommendations to other decision-makers or external bodies.

- 3.2 Monitoring the progress of recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to decision-makers is an important part of effective governance. In addition to these biannual reports, the Committee receives verbal updates at meetings throughout the year during consideration of the latest Work Programme.

- 3.3 The Forward Plan (see Appendix 2) enables the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to maintain awareness of forthcoming Key Decisions due to be taken by Cabinet and Budget and Policy Framework Decisions due to be made by Council.
- 3.4 **2019/20 Progress**
- 3.5 The 2019/20 Work Programme was approved by the Committee on 26 April 2019 (Minute No.O&S/80 (2018/19) refers).
- 3.6 Work remains on track with regard to items scheduled for consideration by the main Committee.
- 3.7 Although a Quarter 3 Financial Monitoring Report had been due to be presented at this meeting, due to deadlines for provision of this information, with the Quarter ending on 31 December 2019, this has not been possible. The Finance Lead Specialist (Section 151 Officer) has undertaken to distribute the information to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members once available. The Quarter 3 report will be presented to Cabinet and Council during February in the usual manner.
- 3.8 At its meeting on 25 October 2019, the Committee considered the draft updated Council Plan 2020-2025. A suggestion was raised by the Committee for the potential for the Plan to contain a reference to transport. This suggestion was implemented prior to consideration of the Plan by Cabinet. The updated Plan was subsequently adopted by Council on 17 December 2019 for adoption as part of the Policy Framework.
- 3.9 Members are asked to consider the amount of business due for inclusion on the agenda for the April meeting and whether they feel that an additional meeting is required.
- 3.10 *Scrutiny Reviews*
- 3.11 The second meeting of the Development of Locality Working through Customer Connect Task and Finish Group took place on 14 November 2019. As a result of this meeting, two sub-group meetings are due to take place early in 2020, one to test the online platform and one to discuss benchmarking. In addition, two further meetings of the full Task and Finish Group are due to take place in the new year. The first, currently scheduled to take place on 31 January 2020, will form a meeting with locality partners. The second will be the final wrap up session during which recommendations will be made for inclusion in a full report for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in April 2020.
- 3.12 The Implementation of South Lakeland District Council's Climate Change Policy Workshop is scheduled to take place on 8 January 2020, with five Members due to take part.
- 3.13 The Workshop on the Strategic Review of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Priority is scheduled to take place on 15 January 2020, with nine Members due to take part.
- 3.14 At its meeting on 25 October 2019, the Committee received an update on Brexit. It was resolved at that time to arrange a Brexit workshop three months after the UK leaves the European Union, with the remit and scope being widened to focus on the District of South Lakeland. Arrangements will be made at the appropriate time.
- 3.15 Arrangements are currently being made for the Workshop on Private Water Supplies to be held on 13 February 2020.
- 3.16 At its meeting on 25 October 2019, Members agreed for the Economic Growth Strategy Task and Finish Group, included in the 2019/20 Work Programme, to be replaced by a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This report will be included on the Agenda for the April 2020 meeting.

- 3.17 *Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group and University Hospitals of Morecambe NHS Trust update*
- 3.18 Unfortunately, both organisations cannot attend this meeting. A further invitation has been sent out to invite attendance at the April meeting.
- 3.19 *Northern Rail*
- 3.20 Councillor Doug Rathbone continues to keep the Committee informed with regard to the Company's service in South Lakeland. Representatives from Northern Rail will also be present at this meeting to provide an update under an earlier agenda item.
- 3.21 *Road Safety Video / presentation*
- 3.22 The officer leading on this will be present under an earlier item to deliver a presentation to the Committee.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Council's Corporate Management Team.

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 This report and appendices are to note. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee could choose not to undertake regular monitoring of its Work Programme or the recommendations that it has made. This is not recommended as the Committee will have no oversight of its recommendations after they have been made.
- 5.2 Should the Committee feel that its recommendations are not being progressed adequately it could request more regular updates from the relevant decision-maker. It also has the power, under the Council's Constitution, to request certain individuals to attend a committee meeting and answer any questions that it puts to them.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

- 6.1 The broad remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and its varied work programme, mean that its work often links to all of the priorities and targets contained within the Council Plan.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report.

Human Resources

- 7.2 There are no direct staffing implications arising out of this report.

Legal

- 7.3 There is a legal requirement for local authorities to operate an overview and scrutiny committee. The committee needs to be effective in its role. This report provides an update on the implementation of previously-agreed recommendations.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No – this report is a review of work already undertaken.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.5 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No – this report is a review of work already undertaken.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
That the Council's scrutiny arrangements are ineffective or inefficient.	The scrutiny work undertaken by the committee does not add value in the manner that it ought to. Areas where scrutiny is required are missed.	An effective overview and scrutiny function, reviewed regularly, is in operation.

Contact Officers

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Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Current Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
2	Latest Forward Plan (published on 7 January 2020)

Background Documents Available

None.

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent
Legal Services	Report author
Section 151 Officer	N/A
Monitoring Officer	Report author
CMT	N/A

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	Report author
Human Resources Manager	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	6 January 2020
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	17 January 2020
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A