

South Lakeland District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Friday, 23 April 2021
Work Programme Setting 2021-22

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

1.0 Expected Outcome

- 1.1 It is anticipated that the Committee's Work Programme will be set so as to make effective use of resources and will add strategic value to the work of the Council in line with its local priorities as contained in the Council Plan.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider and agree its 2021/22 Work Programme.**

3.0 Background and Proposals

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to review or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions. It also has power to make recommendations to the Council or Cabinet and to consider any matters which affect the Council's area or its communities. The Committee also plays an important role in policy development and review.
- 3.2 As part of these responsibilities, the Committee sets an annual work programme at its meeting in April of each year. The work programme ensures that the Committee is able to focus on those areas where it is likely to add the most value. It can do this through its formal meetings, through one-day/half-day workshops or through the work of task and finish groups.
- 3.3 Prioritisation is vital to ensure that there are sufficient resources to allow the work programme planning to take place and to ensure that the work programme is supported throughout 2020/21. An article published by the Local Government Scrutiny Information Unit *Making Scrutiny Count* suggests that "one major scrutiny and perhaps two shorter reviews in the course of a year is realistic".
- 3.4 On 15 January 2021, the Committee resolved that the recommendations generated from its COVID-19 recovery work in 2020-21 should be taken forward in the

Committee's Work Programme for 2021-22 (O/S43). In doing so, the Committee has an opportunity to realign its focus to take a strategic approach to its Work Programme and to undertake fewer, broader reviews providing much greater value added than could be for numerous, specific smaller-scale reviews.

- 3.5 Partnership working, and particularly the engagement of partners, through reviews has been recognised by the Committee as particularly valuable. The benefit of this approach has been clear from the Committees work in relation to the Customer Connect Locality Working Task & Finish Group.

4.0 Consultation

- 4.1 The Work Programme has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, the Monitoring Officer and Corporate Management Team. The main focus of the Committee's Work Programme, South Lakeland's recovery from COVID-19, being approved by the Committee on 15 January 2021 (O/S43).

5.0 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Committee could opt not to use a structured work programme. This is not recommended as, in order for scrutiny to operate effectively, there is a need to ensure that that the work it carries out is timely, accords with the Council priorities, will add value and that there are appropriate resources available for the work to be carried out.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

- 6.1 The Council's response and approach to recovery is guided by the priorities identified in the Council Plan. Analysis of impacts and resultant needs, including the considerations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will inform the annual review of the Council Plan.

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising out of this report. However, any work pursued needs to provide good value for money and ensure that best use is made of the resources.

Human Resources

- 7.2 There are no direct staffing implications arising out of this report. There is, however, a need to ensure that there is an appropriate commitment of resources to support the work of the Committee throughout 2021-22.

Legal

- 7.3 Every local authority has a legal obligation to operate an overview and scrutiny committee. The preparation of a planned work programme ensures that the committee is effective in its role. In turn, this will enable the Council to demonstrate that there are effective scrutiny arrangements.

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

- 7.4 Have you completed a Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment? No
- 7.5 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: Consideration of any topics as part of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme will be considered during any reviews.

Equality and Diversity

- 7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No
- 7.8 If you have not completed an Impact Assessment, please explain your reasons: Consideration of any topics as part of the Overview and Scrutiny work programme will be considered during any reviews.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
The work programme does not add value.	Resources are not used to their maximum.	A planned work programme that aligns with strategic priorities and agreed criteria.
The work programme is not balanced effectively.	The work programme is not completed or the effectiveness of planned work is reduced.	Regular reviewing of the work programme to ensure that the work will continue to add value in a timely manner.

Contact Officers

Linda Fisher – Legal, Governance and Democracy Lead Specialist (Monitoring Officer)
scrutiny@southlakeland.gov.uk

Appendices Attached to this Report

Appendix No.	Name of Appendix
1	Work Programme Table 2021-22

Background Documents Available

None.

Tracking Information

Signed off by	Date sent	Date Signed off
Legal Services	14/04/21	15/04/2021
Section 151 Officer	14/04/21	15/04/2021
Monitoring Officer	14/04/21	15/04/2021

Circulated to	Date sent
Lead Specialist	N/A
Human Resources Lead Specialist	N/A
Communications Team	N/A
Leader	N/A
Committee Chairman	14/04/21
Portfolio Holder	N/A
Ward Councillor(s)	N/A
Committee	23/04/21

Circulated to	Date sent
Executive (Cabinet)	N/A
Council	N/A