

Report to POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22

Chair: Councillor Colin McLaren

Lead Officer: Elizabeth Drogan, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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Purpose of the Report

For the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the Committee's Work Programme for 2021/22.

Recommendations

The Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the attached Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22.

1. Background

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4.1 requires each Overview and Scrutiny Committee to prepare and maintain a Committee Work Programme.
- 1.2 The Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work programme presents the issues that the Committee will be considering and scrutinising during the 2021/22 Municipal Year. The Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a new Committee that will be working to the following terms of reference as agreed by the Council in June 2020 -
- a) To lead the development of the overview and scrutiny process in Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, including responsibility for Member development with regard to overview and scrutiny.
 - b) To undertake strategic level scrutiny (having regard to the Prioritisation Framework where relating to significant policy/service change or an area of public or local interest) relating to:
 - Oldham Council;
 - Wholly owned Local Authority Companies;
 - Strategic Partners and Partnerships;
 - Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) and the city region generally;
 - Education (ensuring there is appropriate statutory representation of co-opted members);
 - Community issues which would include crime and disorder, cohesion, housing and environment and regeneration issues etc.; and
 - Area based issues.
 - c) To develop proposals for submission to the Cabinet and/or to scrutinize proposals of the Cabinet in respect of Policy Framework items, such items being as described at Article 4.1 to the Council Constitution.
 - d) To develop proposals for submission to the Cabinet and/or to scrutinize proposals of the Cabinet in respect of the Budget and related strategies etc., such items being as described at Article 4.1 to the Council Constitution.
 - e) To be the designated 'crime and disorder' committee pursuant to s19 of the Police and Crime Act 2006.
 - f) To establish Task and Finish groups, Inquiries etc to give in depth consideration to issues within the purview of the Committee.
 - g) To consider all Call-Ins (with the exception of called in business from the Commissioning Partnership Board) (In the event a call-in related to an education issue, the statutory co-optees would be invited to participate in that matter at the meeting).
 - h) To consider relevant matters referred from Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.11(g).
 - i) To make recommendations to the Cabinet or to any partner organisation on issues scrutinised relevant to those bodies, and where appropriate, direct to Council.
- 1.3 In drafting the Committee Work Programme, the work programmes and outcomes from the three overview and scrutiny bodies that worked through the 2020/21 Municipal Year were reviewed by the Statutory Scrutiny Officer and officers from Constitutional Services in consultation with the Chairs of the former and current Overview and Scrutiny Committees, with business being assigned in accordance with the agreed terms of reference for the three new Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This process is not intended to replicate

previous years business but looks to ensure that ongoing, longer term oversight of particular issues is not lost in the move from one structure to another.

- 1.4 Among the new Committees, the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee might be regarded as having the more 'strategic' role, scrutinising the Council's key policy items, annual budget proposals, and proposals with significant service and or budgetary implications, while also considering the implications for the Borough and for the Council of proposals being developed at the Greater Manchester (GM) level and by the Council's strategic partners. The strategic role can also be seen as maintaining an oversight of the thematic strands of the Oldham Plan or considering a significant community-based issue having wide ranging implications for the Borough population and requiring detailed consideration and response by the Council alone, by the Council and its Borough partners, or by the Council, partners and wider agencies.
- 1.5 Overview and scrutiny should be regarded as a 'dynamic' process in that issues should be expected to pass from one Committee to another at appropriate times: for example, activities and services following from approval of a Policy would in many cases be expected to be monitored by the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In all cases, the flow of business across Committee would be managed by the Statutory Scrutiny Officer in consultation with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It should, however, be noted that the scheduling of Committee business is, to some degree, in the hands of others: for example, consideration of GM-level business will reflect the decision making timetable of the GM Combined Authority.
- 1.6 The Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme at this stage only notes business scheduled for meetings of the Committee. However, the use of workshops or of task and finish groups are a tool of the overview and scrutiny function, enabling longer and more in-depth consideration of issues than is possible in a Committee setting. Such events will be recorded in the Work Programme as they are called for, scheduled and held.
- 1.7 The initial Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22 is attached as an Appendix to this report. The Work Programme will be updated and re-submitted to each meeting of the Committee (excluding dedicated budget meetings) as the year progresses.