

**Report to PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

## **Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22**

**Chair:** Councillor Riaz Ahmed

**Lead Officer:** Elizabeth Drogan, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

**Report Author:** Mark Hardman, Constitutional Services Officer

**24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

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### **Purpose of the Report**

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

### **Recommendations**

The Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note and comment on the attached Performance 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 Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme presents the issues that the Committee will be considering and scrutinising during the 2021/22 Municipal Year. The Performance 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 monitor and hold to account the performance of service delivery within Oldham Council and of strategic partners such as Oldham Community Leisure Limited (OCLL), Oldham Partnership etc with particular reference to the Corporate Plan and all other strategic plans.
  - b) In reviewing the performance of Council and other services, to scrutinize plans for improvement where performance is weak and to maintain oversight until performance improves.
  - c) To scrutinise the financial performance of the Council against the approved budget and efficiency savings identified therein.
  - d) To scrutinise issues identified as requiring improvement by external assessors (with the exception of social care matters) ensuring that there is appropriate statutory representation of co-opted members in respect of education matters.
  - e) To establish Task and Finish groups, Inquiries etc to give in depth consideration to issues within the purview of the Committee.
  - f) To consider relevant matters referred from Council in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.11(g).
  - g) To monitor the implementation of scrutiny recommendations that have been accepted by the Cabinet.
  - h) To make recommendations to the Cabinet or to any partner organisation on issues scrutinised relevant to those bodies.
- 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 The Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in looking to ensure that the Budget and Policies approved by the Council and/or the Cabinet and put into action by the Cabinet, Portfolio Holders and Council Officers deliver efficient and effective services. Where deficiencies in services might be identified, whether this is via a submitted monitoring report, a report from a regulatory body or through some other means, including via the Committee membership more generally, the Committee can scrutinize the progress of improvement activities and can look to support, encourage and offer advice in looking to secure service improvement.

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- 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 Committees 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, the Council and the various partners contributing to the work of the Committee each have their own business cycles.
  - 1.6 The Performance 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 Performance 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.