

Allerdale Borough Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 28 June 2019

**Potential items for the 2019 - 2020 Work Programme**

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<b>The Reason for the Decision</b>	This report outlines suggested items for inclusion in the Committee's work programme for 2019-2020.
<b>Summary of options considered</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That the Committee considers the lists of suggestions set out in this report;</li><li>2. That the Committee agrees selected topic items for the work programme.</li></ol>
<b>Financial / Resource Implications</b>	There are no direct implications.
<b>Legal / Governance Implications</b>	There are no direct implications.
<b>Community Safety Implications</b>	There are no direct implications.
<b>Health and Safety and Risk Management Implications</b>	There are no direct implications.
<b>Equality Duty considered / Impact Assessment completed</b>	Not required for this report.
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All
<b>The contribution this decision would make to the Council's priorities</b>	The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee contributes to all Council Plan priorities.
<b>Is this a Key Decision</b>	No
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Not applicable
<b>Lead Scrutiny Member</b>	Councillor Alan Pitcher and Councillor Iain Greaney (Co-Chairs)
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Hinde Policy Officer (Scrutiny and Partnerships) 01900 702544 ian.hinde@allerdale.gov.uk

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## Report Implications (Please delete where applicable).

Community Safety	N	Employment (external to the Council)	N
Financial	N	Employment (internal)	N
Legal	N	Partnership	N
Social Inclusion	N	Asset Management	N
Equality Duty	N	Health and Safety	N

### 1.0 Background and introduction

- 1.1 For a scrutiny committee to have a real impact, it needs to draw up a work programme that sets its agenda and clearly prioritises issues of concern based on clear evidence and judgement about where it can have most impact.
- 1.2 Whilst a committee has the power to look at anything which affects an area or its inhabitants, and there may be a temptation to create a comprehensive work programme, often time and resource constraints mean that it will not be possible to cover all issues of interest to local people. Selecting specific topics which clearly focus on the issue to be scrutinised will help the Committee to concentrate its efforts into those areas which will have the greatest effect.
- 1.3 In this Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee operates a work programme of topics to be considered during the year.
- 1.4 This report outlines suggestions for inclusion in the new Committee's work programme, incorporating both new items and those remaining from the previous committee's work programme.
- 1.5 A set of criteria to assist with topic selection is incorporated in the report.

### 2.0 Suggested topics

- 2.1 The tables below show the suggested topics with further explanation alongside. The first table below shows topics carried over from the previous Committee.

<b>1. Continue to monitor the development of Reedlands Road units</b>	The previous Committee had received progress reports on the development of new industrial units.
<b>2. Review and refresh of the Leisure Strategy</b>	The current Leisure Strategy has now reached the end of its timespan. The previous Committee anticipated reviewing the success of the strategy and any intentions for creating a refreshed or new strategy.

<b>3. Completion of exploration of ESF funded training provision</b>	The previous Committee had received presentations from a number of local training providers together with an overview from Cumbria LEP.
<b>4. Review of the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty</b>	The previous Committee had expected to review the A.O.N.B. as part of the portfolio presentation from the former Executive Member for Leisure and Tourism. Note: This is a Joint Advisory Committee Incl. Allerdale Borough Council, Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council.
<b>5. Annual update from the Community Safety Partnership</b>	Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership is written into legislation as a requirement of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.2 The table below shows newly suggested topics gathered from a variety of sources.

<b>1. Continue to monitor the development of the proposed stadium</b>	The previous Committee had held a call in meeting regarding the stadium. The outcome of that meeting was to refer the decision back to the Executive, which is scheduled to meet in the afternoon following this meeting.
<b>2. Review of the recent Community Services procurements</b>	The recent procurement of waste, recycling and street cleaning services has highlighted an opportunity to review procurement practices across the Council.
<b>3. Refresh of the Housing Strategy</b>	The previous Committee considered the Housing Strategy. It is now due to be refreshed in the coming months. The new Committee may choose to continue this involvement.
<b>4. Governance of the Council's role as a corporate charity trustee</b>	The Committee may wish to consider how the Council approaches governance of this distinct role, and how it reports on its charity trustee functions. Being a Charity Trustee is a profound responsibility, with potential personal liability for councillors.
<b>5. Analysis of income and spend by geographic area</b>	The Council Tax base for each area is known and therefore how much it contributes; and the same for the Business Rates base. Discretionary income is known too: council property which generates income is readily identifiable in its location. Most mainstream revenue budget spend is on non-geographically specific services, like bins, so may be discounted when considering discretionary spending by location. This issue has arisen before and it is suggested it needs facts and evidence for further consideration.

<p><b>6. Rural issues, particularly considering addressing social exclusion</b></p>	<p>The issues of social exclusion for those living in rural areas are a concern for a number of organisations both locally and nationally, as well as for local people and local councillors are their representatives. With a number of possible issues to explore, the Committee would need to identify an aspect to focus upon.</p>
<p><b>7. Brexit implications for the borough</b></p>	<p>Similar to the topic area above, there are a number of possible aspects of the implications of leaving the European Union which may impact upon the borough. To be effective, the Committee would need to focus on a specific aspect as its priority.</p>
<p><b>8. Planning and development issues</b></p>	<p>Recent government advice and the implementation of planning policies creates a variety of responses within communities. How effective is this Council in balancing the competing demands – for example biodiversity issues within planning considerations?</p>
<p><b>9. Climate emergency and related issues</b></p>	<p>Parliament has declared a climate emergency. Many Councils have followed suit. What is the Council going to do, both as an organisation and as the local government of Allerdale? As the sea level rises we may expect to have to evacuate some coastal communities and major flood events could make some community areas totally uninhabitable.</p> <p>Related to the issues of climate change is the Council's position on coastal issues. As a district with one of the longest stretches of coastline, the Council currently has no specific policy relating to the coast. The remit of an overview and scrutiny committee can include policy development such as this.</p>

2.3 This list is wide-ranging and it would not be possible to consider all topics identified above in sufficient appropriate detail within a twelve month period. The advice given at the recent induction training was to select topics based on the relevance and effect on the greatest number of people as a result of scrutinising a specific item.

2.4 The following criteria used by previous Overview and Scrutiny Committees may be helpful in selecting topics:

**Criteria for Selection of Items**

- ❖ Issue identified by Members as a key issue for the public (through Member surgeries and other contact with constituents).
- ❖ Poor performing services (evidence from performance indicators or benchmarking)

- ❖ Service ranked as important by Council's community (through surveys or other means)
- ❖ High level of user or general public dissatisfaction with service
- ❖ Public interest issue covered in local media
- ❖ High level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area (as a percentage of total expenditure)
- ❖ Pattern of budgetary overspends
- ❖ Council/Corporate priority area
- ❖ Central Government priority area
- ❖ Issues raised by external audit manager letters or external audit reports
- ❖ Key issues or new evidence provided by external organisations on key issue
- ❖ Issue highlighted by call in process
- ❖ Forward Plan
- ❖ Other

#### **Potential criteria for rejection**

- ❖ Issue currently being examined by the Executive
- ❖ Issue currently being examined by a staff group: changes may be imminent
- ❖ Issue will be addressed as part of a review within the next year
- ❖ Other

### **3.0 Task and Finish Groups**

- 3.1 The Committee has the option to set up task and finish groups to address selected topics.
- 3.2 Task and finish groups can include non-Committee members and invite those with specific interest or expertise from outside the Council to join a task and finish group.

### **4.0 Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is recommended:
- That the Committee considers the lists of suggestions set out in this report;
  - That the Committee agrees selected topic items for the work programme.

## **5.0 Conclusion**

- 5.1 The Committee has a broad range of topics from which to select its focused work programme, and it is unlikely that all topics identified in this report can be covered.
- 5.2 The Committee has a number of options available to address the execution of the work programme including task and finish groups or 'scrutiny in a day' approaches.

**Ian Hinde**  
**Policy Officer (Scrutiny and Partnerships)**