

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR 2020 COMMITTEE AGENDA

09 / 06 / 2020

Item no.	Potential work plan items	Further information	Include (Y/N) & reasons	Rationale for inclusion/not included	Specific focus of the item?	Approach	Suggested Date
1	Development of a Resilient Communities Strategy	The Resilient Communities Strategy will cover that theme of the Council Strategy and will build in approaches around healthy, active communities, inequalities and community engagement and support. It will look to set out how we can support communities across the district as we move out of the current restrictions and into recovery.	Y 5 / 8 / 13 / 14	Pre-scrutiny of draft strategy. This will be a key strategy document for the Council supporting the Council Strategy and recovery activity.	Pre-scrutiny approach.	Informal committee meeting open to all Councillors	Aug 2020
2	Update and review of Allerdale Waste Services since start of operations	The service began in April; the committee might look at how the service is performing after a specified period i.e. six months or at the end of the first year	Y 1 / 3 / 5 / 6 / 8 / 9 / 13 / 14	The committee previously looked at the setting up of the service through a task and finish group	Progress report on customer satisfaction; efficiency reporting could be referred to Audit Committee	Agenda item with presentation	Sept 2020
3	Update and review of town based programmes in Workington and Maryport	These are significant programmes for the Council	Y 1 / 5 / 6 / 8 / 9 / 13 / 14	These programmes support the Thriving Towns and Villages element of the Council Strategy	Progress report	Potentially presentation to the committee; one meeting for each or task and finish group(s)?	Sept 2020 & March 2021
4	Consideration of this Council's role in the ongoing public health situation	There will be an ongoing role for councils in test and trace activities. The county council currently takes responsibility for public	Y 1 / 3 / 5 / 6 / 8 / 9	Test and trace activity will be key to ensuring society and the economy can return to some kind of normal functioning so	Need to define the focus and outcome might be – needs further consideration?	Agenda item with presentations and discussion	July 2020

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		health in the county, but districts have a role relating to control of disease		needs to be operating effectively in each local area	Update from the Director of Public Health and the council's environmental health team		
5	Next steps and actions resulting from Covid-19 issues	What is the council's role in recovery? How are we able to support businesses and communities as a result?	Y 1 / 3 / 5 / 6 / 8 / 9 / 11 / 15	Emerging and changing situation expected to continue for the foreseeable future affecting all of life for some time	To be considered – this is a broad area so there needs to be a clear focus for any work	Task and finish group(s)	July 2020 ongoing
6	Impact of pandemic on council operations and finances	There will be ongoing financial implications for the organisation. There have also been different working practices adopted during the pandemic.	Y 1 / 3 / 5 / 6 / 8 / 9 / 11 / 14 / 15	The Council will need to understand and address financial impacts.	The Council will need to review the effectiveness of different working practices and consider whether and how they ought to be continued.	Task and finish group(s)	July 2020 ongoing
7	Review of the overview and scrutiny section of the Constitution	Some aspects of the content could be better defined to add clarity, particularly for the call-in process	Y 15		To confirm any changes or improvements the committee wishes to submit to the Constitution Review Group	Agenda item	September 2020

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8	Development of a new Housing Strategy	The current Housing Strategy runs up to 2021. Work will begin later in 2020/21 to start developing a new strategy.	Y 1 / 3 / 8 / 11 / 13 / 14	Pre-scrutiny of draft strategy.	Similar to previous approaches to strategy development, a 'briefing format', again inviting non-Committee members to attend, was thought to be the appropriate method to address this issue.	Informal presentation to the Committee	late 2020/21
9	Development of a new Economic Growth Strategy	This work includes developing a new Economic Growth Strategy for Allerdale to guide economic development activity to ambitiously rethink and rebuild the local economy over the longer term	Y 5 / 8 / 13 / 14	Pre-Scrutiny of draft strategy. This will be a key strategy document for the Council, supporting the Council Strategy and recovery activity.	Similar to previous approaches to strategy development, a 'briefing format', again inviting non-Committee members to attend, was thought to be the appropriate method to address this issue.	Informal committee meeting open to all Councillors	Sept 2020
10	Progress report on climate change	This has been affected as a result of the Covid-19 crisis so progress will not be as originally intended.	Y 1 / 3 / 5 / 8 / 9 / 11 / 14	Creation of climate change action plan agreed as part of OSC recommendations to Council	Update on progress of activities in action plan	Agenda item with presentations and discussion	Dec 2020
11	Performance management	This is an area of the Council's monitoring processes which concerns almost every aspect of its operations and services.	Y (2) / 6 / 8	OSC have a role in the overview of performance across the organisation and how well priorities are being met.	Possibly include performance management generally: how is it done; how effective is it; what information do Members need?	Regular update at meetings (quarterly)	Ongoing

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ITEMS OR SUGGESTIONS INCLUDING THOSE REMAINING FROM PREVIOUS YEAR							
12	Annual update from the Community Safety Partnership.	Scrutiny of the Community Safety Partnership is written into legislation as a requirement of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The intention was to include feedback from the Council's representatives to other scrutiny related bodies	Y 5 / 8 / 9	This is the only outside body which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to scrutinise. Relates to the partnership rather than the detail of the work.	As well as hearing about work undertaken, the Committee may wish to explore if the partnership structure is effective and has the correct membership etc. Could include the Allerdale Local Focus Hub.	Update provided to Committee via presentation	July 2020
13	Review of proposed development of a stadium	The original project was to be reduced in scale.	? 1 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 8 / 11 / 12 / 13 c ?	Dependent upon next steps and further decisions.	Specific focus could be on process for developing large scale projects alongside specific focus on the development of the stadium.	To be determined either in Committee or through a task and finish group.	

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14	Governance of the Council's role as a corporate charity trustee	The Committee may wish to consider how the Council approaches governance of this distinct Trustee is a profound responsibility, with potential role, and how it reports on its charity trustee functions.	? 15 d (Constitution Review Group)	Some links with other groups, potentially Constitution Review Group or Member Development Group.	To highlight risk and understanding of responsibilities of Members.	Referral to the Constitution Review Group or as a small item within an OSC meeting, or a single meeting issue task and finish group	Autumn 2020
15	Analysis of income and spend by geographic area	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.	? Need to define what the focus and outcome might be – needs further consideration?	Most mainstream revenue budget spend is on non-geographically specific services so may be discounted when considering discretionary spending by location.	Provide information to aid understanding This issue has arisen before and it is suggested it needs facts and evidence for further consideration.	Single item on Committee meeting agenda. Could also form part of the 'data collection and use' review currently being instigated.	Winter / spring 2020-2021

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16	Rural issues, particularly consideration of addressing social exclusion	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.	Y 1 / 3 / 6 / 8 / 9 / 11 e	Issue of concern to a number of Members and influences provision of services.	Definition of rural needed? Highlighted issues of transport and local services provision – links to planning policies	Task and finish group to fully explore all aspects identified.	Winter / spring 2020-2021
17	Completion of focus on ESF funded training provision	The previous Committee had received presentations from a number of local training providers together with an overview from Cumbria LEP.	? 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 8 / 9 / 11 c / e	Major funding for employment and skills - to consider success of programmes and potentially shape future programmes	Concern over what future provision may cover and whether value for money and potential duplication are issues.	Further presentation from providers and LEP; discussion with MP regarding any future commissioning through government departments	Towards the end of 2020, i.e. after Brexit situation is clearer and the current contracts are completed, therefore results and outcomes can be scrutinised
18	Updates from representatives on other scrutiny bodies	There are a number of other scrutiny bodies which the Council is represented on.	Y 1 / 3 / 5 / 8 / 9 / 11 / 15	To be clear about the remit and work of other scrutiny bodies which the Council is represented on.	Other scrutiny bodies to provide update on their work: LEP Police Panel Health Scrutiny	Agenda item with presentations and discussion	Autumn 2020

Criteria for Selection of Items

- 1) Issue identified by Members as a key issue for the public (through Member surgeries and other contact with constituents).
- 2) Poor performing services (evidence from performance indicators or benchmarking)
- 3) Service ranked as important by Council's community (through surveys or other means)
- 4) High level of user or general public dissatisfaction with service
- 5) Public interest issue covered in local media
- 6) High level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area (as a percentage of total expenditure)
- 7) Pattern of budgetary overspends
- 8) Council/Corporate priority area
- 9) Central Government priority area
- 10) Issues raised by external audit manager letters or external audit reports
- 11) Key issues or new evidence provided by external organisations on key issue
- 12) Issue highlighted by call in process
- 13) Forward Plan
- 14) Relates to the Council's policy framework
- 15) Other

Potential criteria for rejection

- a) Issue currently being examined by the Executive
- b) Issue currently being examined by a staff group: changes may be imminent
- c) Issue will be addressed as part of a review within the next year
- d) Issue should be referred to another council committee
- e) Other