

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
DATE OF DECISION	16 January 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
LEAD OFFICER:	Simon Trevaskis Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer - Scrutiny	
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Rowenna Davis - Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee	
AUTHORITY TO TAKE DECISION:	In accordance with paragraph 6.7 (vi) of Part 4E - Scrutiny and Overview Procedure Rules, in the Council's Constitution, the Committee should receive an update on the work programme at each meeting.	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	No	Public
WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A	

1. SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24

- 1.1. This report sets out for the information of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee the most recent version of the work programmes for the Committee and its Sub-Committees.
- 1.2. This follows on from a report considered by the Committee at its meeting on 25 July 2023, which agreed that the financial sustainability of the Council would be a key focus. It was also agreed that the following principles would be used as the basis for the work programme:-
 1. **The Public's Money.** Scrutiny wants reassurance that taxpayers' money is put to best use. At a time when the Council is making cuts to balance the books, it has no money to waste. In the middle of a cost-of-living crisis, every pound of public money should be valued. Scrutiny will aim to look at the impact of any financial decisions on the public and the Council's finances, including knock-on effects. We will aim to research best practice and to provide suggestions as well as criticism.
 2. **The Public's Services.** Scrutiny wants reassurance that services are improving. This is about leadership, culture and organisation as much as it is about budgets.

We will seek reassurance that even in difficult financial circumstances, we are still meeting our duty of care to the most vulnerable. Scrutiny will listen and learn from the public's experiences of service performance to guide its work on Croydon's transformation.

3. **The Public's Voice.** Scrutiny wants to make sure that the Council is transparent, open and engaging with the people it exists to serve. Scrutiny will monitor the planned improvements in governance for Croydon's local democracy, as well as inviting public voices into the Scrutiny process itself. The Mayor was elected on a mandate to "listen to Croydon" and Scrutiny will hold the executive to account for this pledge.

- 1.3. Any changes made to the work programme during the year, should reflect these agreed priorities.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Scrutiny & Overview Committee is asked to: -

1. To note the most recent version of the Work Programme.
2. Consider whether there are any other items that should be provisionally added to the work programme as a result of the discussions held during the meeting.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Setting a work programme to guide Scrutiny throughout the year is a requirement in the Council's Constitution and considered to be best practice. Adjustments can be made to the work programme throughout the year and are agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs & Vice-Chairs, in line with the arrangements in the Constitution, and an update provided at each Committee meeting.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None. It is a requirement in the Council's Constitution for the Scrutiny & Overview Committee to have a clearly defined work programme for itself and its sub-committees at the start of each municipal year.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Each of the sub-committee's has had the opportunity to review their respective work programmes at each meeting. Scrutiny Chairs will also meet regularly with officers to review the programme.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- 6.1 This report contributes to priority 1: The Council balances its books, listens to residents and delivers good sustainable services.

7. APPENDICES

7.1 Appendix 1: Scrutiny Work Programme 2023-24