

For general release

REPORT TO:	Scrutiny and Overview Committee 16th July 2019
SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20
LEAD OFFICER:	Simon Trevaskis Senior Democratic Services & Governance Officer - Scrutiny
PERSON LEADING AT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING:	Councillor Sean Fitzsimons – Chair of the Scrutiny & Overview Committee

CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON:

One of the roles of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee is to scrutinise the implementation of the Corporate Plan.

[Corporate Plan for Croydon 2018-2022](#)

ORIGIN OF ITEM:	The Council's Constitution requires the Scrutiny and Overview Committee to agree the scrutiny work programme for the municipal year.
PURPOSE:	The Committee is asked to agree the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019-20.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Scrutiny and Overview Committee has a constitutional responsibility to set its work programme at its first full meeting after Annual Council each year.
- 1.2 At the first meeting of the year, on 11 June 2019, it was agreed to defer the approval of the Work Programme to the next meeting of the Committee on 16 July 2019.

2. PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE SCRUTINY

- 2.1 Before setting the initial Work Programme for the Scrutiny and Overview Committee and its three Sub-Committees (Children & Young People, Health & Social Care and Streets, Environment & Homes), it is worth revisiting the principles for scrutiny. There are a number of factors that contribute towards delivering effective scrutiny, the Centre for Public Scrutiny has set out the four principles of what it considered to be good scrutiny, in that it should:

- Provide a constructive “critical friend” challenge;
- Amplify the voices and concerns of the public;
- Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role;
- Drive improvement in public services.

2.2 For scrutiny to be effective it needs to be seen as a ‘critical friend’ and it is important to identify where decisions could be improved and how to prevent mistakes being made or repeated. However, the focus should be on forward thinking and making positive change, rather than apportioning blame and focusing on the negatives. In doing so it will lead to both positive and constructive relationships between scrutiny, councillors and officers. In order to be successful scrutiny also relies on the following conditions:

2.3 **Effective Work Programming**

Scrutiny work programming is at its most effective when there are clear criteria for the selection of subjects and agenda items.

2.4 **Positive attitude of the Council Cabinet and Council Officers**

Scrutiny works best when the Council’s Cabinet views it in a positive light and as an opportunity to improve Council performance. Scrutiny’s effectiveness will be reduced if the Cabinet sees it as aggressively critical, which will lead to defensive behaviour and make it increasingly difficult for Scrutiny to influence change. Similarly, Scrutiny will be more effective if council officers are willing to provide information and assistance when required. Ideally officers should see Scrutiny as an essential partner in improving services, where non-Cabinet Councillors can help them to better understand local people and make robust judgements about priorities.

2.5 **Positive attitude of Scrutiny Councillors**

Scrutiny Councillors need to be committed to making the function work and to developing the conditions necessary for working effectively with the Council’s Cabinet and officers, and any other relevant partner organisations. It is also important that Scrutiny is seen as impartial and stays separate from party politics. However, Scrutiny work includes looking at issues that are locally politically contentious and high profile, and as such an element of political disagreement is inevitable. It should also be recognised that greater weight can be given to Scrutiny recommendations agreed by the whole Committee, rather than those agreed along party political lines. The challenge for Scrutiny Councillors is to use their political skills and understanding of the needs of local people to shape the discussions, while not acting in a party political manner or using the discussions to further party political objectives.

3. LEGISLATION

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees were established in authorities by the Local Government Act 2000 and intended as a counterweight to the new executive structures created by that Act (elected mayors or leaders and cabinets). It was envisioned that their role would be to develop and review policy and make recommendations to the Council. The main legislative provisions for Overview and Scrutiny Committees for England can now be found in the Localism Act 2011, which consolidated many of the subsequent legislative changes introduced since 2000.
- 3.2 As well as powers to scrutinise internal performance, Scrutiny also has powers to scrutinise other public bodies, with specific legislation relating to the scrutiny of Health Services (the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Well-Being Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013) and Crime and Disorder matters (Police and Justice Act 2006).
- 3.3 The provision for 'health scrutiny' of health bodies and authorities at Croydon is overseen by the Health and Social Care Sub-Committee. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Sub-Committee also represent the Council on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and provide regular updates to the Sub-Committee on its work. As part of the powers relating to health scrutiny the Sub-Committee can require members or officers of local health bodies to provide information and to attend meetings to answer questions.
- 3.4 The provision of a 'crime and disorder committee' is mandatory and at Croydon this function is delegated to the main Scrutiny and Overview Committee. Arising from this, the Committee has the power to ask local community safety partners for information, request that those partners attend meetings (given reasonable notice) and require that those partners consider recommendations submitted to them.

4. STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN LOCAL AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES

- 4.1 In May 2019 the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government published new statutory guidance on Scrutiny for local authorities. This guidance was produced as a result of a review of local government scrutiny by the Communities and Local Government Select Committee, which published its findings in December 2017.
- 4.2 Although only recently published, account has been taken of the guidance in preparation of the work programme. This include having a structured work programme, while also leaving flexibility for Scrutiny to respond to items as they arise.
- 4.3 The guidance also highlights that in order for scrutiny to be at its most effective,

consideration needs to be given to how topics are scrutinised. This could involve a variety of different approaches to evidence gathering including visits to service providers and informal briefing sessions. Consideration will be given to using different approaches during the year, with the exact timings for any such sessions confirmed in due course.

5. WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20

5.1 The Scrutiny Procedure Rules (extracted from the Constitution) state that:

“6.1. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee shall be responsible for setting its own work programme and the initial work programme of its Sub- Committees.

6.2. A balanced work programme should be developed including pre- and post-decision scrutiny, monitoring and external scrutiny. As far as reasonably practicable, there should be wide consultation on the work programme with Councillors, Chief Officers, external agencies and the wider community prior to its consideration by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee.

6.3. The Scrutiny and Overview Committee will oversee Sub-Committee workloads, having regard to the available officer and other resources.”

5.2 The Scrutiny and Overview Committee Work Programme 2019-20 (attached as Appendix A) sets out a programme of work which focuses on a number of different strands including ongoing item such as the Children’s Improvement Plan and Community Safety, while also responding to issues important to the local community such a rail transport provision and affordable housing need.

6. OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT SCRUTINY REVIEWS

6.1 There are a number of issues under consideration for scrutiny in the forthcoming year that cut across the remit of more than one Committee/Sub-Committee. Such as reviewing the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMS) or items within the Council’s new Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction.

6.2 In such circumstances it may be appropriate to hold informal joint Committee/Sub-Committee sessions to scrutinise these topics. Alternatively it may be that one Committee/Sub-Committee is allocated as the lead on a topic with members from the other Committee/Sub-Committee invited to the formal meetings where the topics are being considered to contribute their expertise on a specific area.

6.3 The exact arrangements for any joint scrutiny will be agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs in advance of any sessions being held.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SCRUTINY AND OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

7.1 Members are asked to agree the Work Programme.

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APPENDIX A:

Scrutiny and Overview Work
Programme 2019/20

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

Scrutiny Work Programme 2019-20

Scrutiny & Overview Committee

Meeting Date	Item
11 June 2019	1. Question Time: Leader of the Council 2. New Scrutiny Guidance
16 July 2019	1. Annual Complaints Report 2018-19 2. Update on the Implementation of the Library Strategy 3. Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy 4. Scrutiny Work Programme 2018-19 5. New Scrutiny Guidance – Follow-up
10 September 2019	1. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources 2. Pre-Decision: Budget Preparation for 2020/21 3. Annual Report of the Head of Paid Service/Chief Executive - Workforce Strategy
29 October 2019	1. Update on Developing a Strategy Framework for Croydon 2. Review of the Growth Zone
10 December 2019	1. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Culture, Sport & Leisure 2. Fairfield Halls
14 January 2020	1. Question Time: Leader of the Council 2. Budget 2020/21
25 February 2020	1. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Safer Croydon & Communities 2. Safer Croydon Partnership Review 3. Review of the implementation of the Public Health Approach to Violence Reduction
7 April 2020	1. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs 2. Strategy for Job Creation & the promotion of the Economy in the Borough.

Others items to be considered for scheduling in the work programme:

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| 1. Public Engagement Strategy | 4. Review of the Locality Work Programme |
| 2. Future of High Streets | |
| 3. Review of Insourcing | 5. Sustainable Croydon |

Children & Young People Sub-Committee

Meeting Date	Item
18 June 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children's Improvement Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To include missing children & CIN 2. Locality Model for Service Delivery 3. Dedicated School Grant Recovery Plan
17 September 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children's Improvement Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To include SPOC and assessment 2. Children's Complaints – Annual Report 3. Safeguarding Board Annual Report
5 November 2019	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children's Improvement Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To include post CIB monitoring requirements 2. School Exclusions Task & Finish Group Final Report 3. Safeguarding Themes: Neglect, Vulnerable Adults, children with disabilities 4. Effective Data Sharing by Safeguarding Partners 5. Transitions Policy 6. Adoptions and Fostering 7. Corporate Parenting – New Governance, Section 20, Housing Support 22 +
21 January 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children's Improvement Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To include Post OFSTED Improvement Plan 2. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning 3. Education Budget & Education Standards report 4. School Place Planning report
3 March 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children's Improvement Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To include Post OFSTED theme 2. Recovery Plan for High Needs Block 3. Workforce and Financial Sustainability – Long Term
14 April 2020	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children's Improvement Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To include Post OFSTED theme

Health and Social Care Sub-Committee

Meeting Date	Item
25 June 2019	1. South London & Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM): Quality Accounts & Update 2. Croydon Health Services NHS Trust (CHS): Quality Accounts & Update
24 September 2019	1. Review of the Adult Social Care Budget 2. Croydon CCG & Croydon Health Service Integration, to include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shadow Arrangement for Integration between the CCG & CHS - Health and Care Plan - Winter Preparedness
12 November 2019	1. Review of Workforce Planning across Health & Social Care 2. Winter Preparedness 3. Immunisation Review To include workforce immunisation and wider community immunisation.
28 January 2020	1. Croydon CCG & Croydon Health Service Integration, to include:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Timetable and Approach to integration with Social Care - Integration of the CCG & CHS Work Force - ICN Neighbourhood Plans
10 March 2020	1. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Families, Health & Social Care 2. Croydon CCG & Croydon Health Service Integration: Scrutiny of Plans for Further Integration 3. Review of Winter Preparedness
21 April 2020	1. Annual Report of the Director of Public Health

Others items to be considered for scheduling in the work programme:

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| 1. End of Life Care | 4. Winter Preparedness |
| 2. Substance Misuse Services
(possible joint session with
CYP Sub-Committee) | 5. Review of Commissioning |
| 3. Update on the Community
Dental Service | 6. Social Isolation |

Streets, Environment and Homes Sub-Committee

Meeting Date	Item
2 July 2019	1. Update from Rail Service Providers
1 October 2019	1. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Clean Green Croydon 2. South London Waste Partnership Annual Review 3. Update on the Grounds Maintenance Service To include the outcomes of Service Review
19 November 2019	1. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport & Regeneration 2. Sustainable Croydon, to include Climate Change and Air Quality
4 February 2020	1. Question Time: Cabinet Member for Homes & Gateway Services 2. Annual Review of Brick by Brick 3. Budget options for the Housing Revenue Account
17 March 2020	
28 April 2020	

Others items to be considered for scheduling in the work programme:

1. Review of Housing Maintenance Contract
2. Affordable Homes Programme
3. Accommodation & Assets Strategy
4. Fire Safety
5. Future of High Streets
6. Social Infrastructure