



People Overview Committee 18 July 2018	<u>Item</u> 8 <u>Public</u>
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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2018 – 2019

Responsible officer

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1.0 Summary

1.1 This paper presents Overview and Scrutiny's proposed work programme for the year ahead. The committees have based their programmes on topics from Shropshire Council's Strategic Action Plan. Committees will also

- scrutinise thematic priorities
- respond to emerging issues and
- follow up on previous work.

1.2 The paper also identifies topics relevant to more than one committee, and makes suggestions for committees to work together to consider these issues.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Committee members to:

- confirm the proposed work programme attached as **Appendix 1**
- suggest changes to the committee work programme and
- recommend other topics to consider

3.0 Background

3.1 Each year, Shropshire Council's overview and scrutiny committees jointly review, co-ordinate and update their work programmes for the year ahead. This review allows overview and scrutiny to ensure that its work programme takes into account Shropshire Council's strategic priorities, and effective arrangements are in place to look at topics that are relevant to more than one committee.

3.2 At a work programme planning session, overview and scrutiny committee members, portfolio holders, elected members and officers used the strategic action plan to identify a shortlist of strategic priorities for each committee to incorporate into their work programme for the year ahead.

- 3.3 Following this session, members of the Performance Management Scrutiny Committee met with officers to identify lead committees for each identified strategic priority. Members also agreed lead committees for strategic priorities that related to more than one committee. These strategic priorities will form the basis of each committee's work.
- 3.4 In addition to priorities identified in the strategic action plan, overview and scrutiny committees also include thematic priorities into their work programme. Committees will also need the flexibility to respond to emerging issues. Accordingly this work programme will continue to have topics added to it.

4.0 Cross-cutting issues

4.1 Although no topic in the work programme exists in isolation, most topics can be considered discretely by a committee during their scheduled meetings. However there are several broad areas of the council's work that pertain to several committees equally. Overview and scrutiny committees will need to ensure that they cover these topics comprehensively without duplicating work. Work programme planning has identified the following cross-cutting topics.

4.2 *Social prescribing/community resilience*

Social prescribing is a means of enabling GPs, nurses and other primary care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services. Schemes can involve a variety of activities which are typically provided by voluntary and community sector organisations, such as volunteering, arts activities, group learning, gardening, befriending, cookery, healthy eating advice and sports.

Both the Communities Overview Committee and Health and Social Care Overview Committee have an interest in this topic. It is proposed however that the Communities Overview Committee will consider this matter in its entirety during its scheduled committee meetings.

The Health and Social Care Overview Committee will focus its work on scrutinising other adult social care matters, such as delayed transfers of care, the Improved Better Care Fund, and falls prevention.

4.3 *Place shaping*

Place shaping concerns how the council plans, delivers and supports growth and development in housing, the economy and local communities. The strategic action plan lists six topics, which together form the council's place-shaping priorities:

- Diversification of the economy

- Sustainable growth of Shrewsbury and the market towns
- Investment plans to enable sustainable growth
- Maintaining a clean and attractive environment
- Balancing Housing and economic growth
- Households and accessible green space

Although the People Overview Committee has the remit to consider housing matters, much of the work to plan and deliver housing concerns planning, local authority investment, economic growth and the delivery of infrastructure such as roads. It is therefore proposed that the bulk of the scrutiny of place-shaping will be carried out by the Place Overview Committee.

To support the Place Overview Committee in its work, the People Overview Committee will consider supported housing matters. The Communities Overview Committee will look at households and accessible green space as part of its remit to scrutinise matters concerning community resilience.

5.0 Task and finish groups

5.1 Overview and scrutiny often looks at topics in depth, such as its proposed review of community transport in Shropshire. It also looks at topics that do not relate to one particular committee, such as its recent review of Shropshire Council's support for refuges for domestic abuse. In order to carry out this work effectively, overview and scrutiny committees set up task and finish groups. These groups consist of members drawn from overview and scrutiny committees, which meet outside of the usual scheduled committee meetings. These groups then report their findings and recommendations to overview and scrutiny committees for approval. The current list of ongoing task and finish group meetings is included in this report as **Appendix 2**.

6.0 Next steps

6.1 Overview and scrutiny will update this report on an ongoing basis and present it to each overview and scrutiny committee, to allow members the opportunity to contribute to its development.