



Communities Overview Committee	<u>Item</u>
23 November 2023	<u>8</u>
	<u>Public</u>

Communities Overview Committee Work Programme 2022-2023

Responsible officer

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1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This paper presents the Communities Overview Committee's proposed work programme for the 2022-2023 municipal year. During the course of its work programme, the committee will also
- Scrutinise emerging thematic priorities
 - respond to emerging issues and
 - follow up on previous work.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Committee members to:
- agree the proposed committee work programme attached as **appendix 1**
 - suggest changes to the committee work programme and
 - recommend other topics to consider.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The work programme provides the opportunity for the committee to plan its work for the next twelve months. In planning its work, it should aim to produce a programme that features a combination of:
- scrutiny of council priorities, through its corporate plan (The Shropshire Plan)
 - forthcoming policy proposals, as listed in the Forward Plan and from discussions with officers and administration members.
 - community priorities that the public bring to the attention of elected members.
 - priorities for action resulting from the council's financial and capital strategies.
 - the work of our partners, for example the Marches Local Enterprise partnership or
 - following up on previous recommendations from the committee.

3.2 **The Shropshire Plan**

Shropshire Council's overarching corporate plan, The Shropshire Plan, was launched earlier this year. The plan is an ever evolving document that will contain:

- Corporate priorities which the council's directorates will be responsible for delivering;
- Plans and policies which together will deliver the priorities of the corporate plan; and
- A suite of performance management information that will allow elected members to scrutinise both the delivery of plans and policies, but also to determine whether those plans and policies had resulted in the expected change in performance.

3.3 ***The Shropshire Plan: Housing in Shropshire***

The Shropshire Plan contains the corporate priority to: "...ensure an appropriate mix of housing in the right areas of the county when supporting people with disabilities and to attract the right workforce for the employment needs and opportunities located there; reducing distances travelled to work." The chairs of the Place Overview Committee and Communities Overview Committee see two strands to this work:

- Ensuring private sector housing growth through long-term planning (The Local Plan), an effective planning service, and addressing gaps through the council's homebuilder Cornovii.
- Meeting social housing need through partnership working with social housing providers, and through commissioning and development of housing for those with additional need.

Members of the committee met recently to discuss housing policy and practice in Shropshire. They agreed that the Communities Overview Committee will seek to scrutinise how the local authority meets social and supported housing need through a series of three committee meeting sessions. These are listed in the work programme attached as **Appendix 1**.

3.4 **Transport and Highways**

The Shropshire Plan contains a fundamental objective to "deliver excellent connectivity and infrastructure, increasing access to social contact, employment, education, services and leisure opportunities." As with housing, the chairs of the Communities Overview Committee and Place Overview Committee recognise that transport operates both regionally and locally. Accordingly, the Communities Overview Committee has agreed to focus primarily on community-level transport matters. The committee was due to meet before the meeting to discuss with officers how best to carry out this work. Accordingly the elements of this strand of

work will now be added to the next edition of this work programme in January 2023.

- 3.4 Shropshire Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions is attached as appendix 2. The Forward Plan sets out the decisions, including key decisions, which are likely to be taken during the period covered by the plan by Cabinet as a whole or by individual members of the Executive. The plan is updated each month and/or at least 28 clear days before a key decision is to be taken.

4.0 Next steps

- 4.1 Officers will present a refreshed work programme at each committee meeting. In addition, the committee will continue to meet informally between committee meetings to discuss which topics they wish to scrutinise at future meetings.

List of background papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
None
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)
All
Local Member
All
Appendices
Overview and scrutiny work programme
Cabinet Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Appendix 1
Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2022 – 2023

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
Domestic Abuse services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise services in Shropshire to support victims of domestic abuse. To ensure current funding and infrastructure meets the needs of people in Shropshire. 	Connexus Head of Housing Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs Assessment Domestic abuse housing strategy 	23 November 2022
Economic Growth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview of the economic growth plan Identify topics of focus for the 2022/2023 work programme 	Executive Director, Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft economic growth plan 	23 November 2022
Meeting Housing Need (part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the social housing market in Shropshire Understand the different organisations who provide or regulate housing in Shropshire 	Assistant Director Homes and Communities Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing performance indicators Attendance of main social housing providers in Shropshire Attendance of officer responsible for housing in Shropshire Council Shropshire Council organisation chart 	25 January 2023

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
Community Transport Matters (part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA 	<p>Assistant Director Infrastructure</p> <p>Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA 	25 January 2023
Armed Forces Covenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An update on work to review the Covenant action plan. 	Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment and Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated covenant action plan. 	25 January 2023
Meeting Housing Need (part 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutinise the intelligence, policy and performance framework that underpins social housing in Shropshire. 	<p>Assistant Director Homes and Communities</p> <p>Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Strategy 2022-2027 Homelessness strategy Housing Needs Assessment Performance Indicators relating to housing and homelessness 	22 March 2023
Community Transport Matters (part 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA 	<p>Assistant Director Infrastructure</p> <p>Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBA 	22 March 2023

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
Flooding response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA 	<p>Assistant Director Infrastructure</p> <p>Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA 	22 March 2023
Meeting Housing Need (part 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how social housing is commissioned, allocated, built and disposed of. • Understand the barriers to developing affordable housing to rent or buy in rural areas • Identify recommendations for Cabinet. 	<p>Assistant Director Homes and Communities</p> <p>Portfolio Holder Growth and Regeneration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA 	June 2023 (date TBC)
Community Transport Matters (part 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA 	<p>Assistant Director Infrastructure</p> <p>Portfolio Holder Climate Change, Environment and Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBA 	June 2023 (date TBC)

Topic	Objectives	Participants	Information required	Date
Working with town and parish councils' terms of reference	<p>Identify ways by which working relationships with town and parish councils can be strengthened. To include, but limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning • Winter maintenance • Ambulance community first responders • Environmental maintenance grants • Decline of LJC's and how do we fill the gaps in that? 	Portfolio Holder Health and Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of reference 	June 2023