

REPORT TO:		Cabinet	
DATE:		17 th July 2019	
REPORT OF:		Cllr Noordad Aziz, Chair of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cllr Glen Harrison, Chair of the Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
REPORT AUTHOR:		Overview and Scrutiny Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:		Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes	
EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)	No	Not applicable	
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report requests Cabinet to give consideration to and comment on the draft work programmes for Overview and Scrutiny for 2019/20.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the work programmes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees contained in the Appendix to this report and provides comments accordingly.

3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background

- 3.1 At the beginning of each municipal year, the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees each agree a work programme for the year.

- 3.2 The process for agreeing the work programme is set out in Overview and Scrutiny procedure rule C6(a) as follows;

“A draft work programme will be submitted for comment to the first appropriate meeting of the Cabinet at the beginning of each new Municipal Year and the draft work programme for each overview and scrutiny committee will then be submitted to the next following meeting of that committee (together with any comments or recommendations from the Cabinet) for approval”.

- 3.3 A draft work programme for each of the Committees is submitted for comment. This will be sent in draft to Cabinet, then to both Scrutiny Committees along with any

comments from Cabinet. The Scrutiny Committees will then approve a full programme which will be submitted to the next meeting of Cabinet. Due to the timings of meetings this year it is proposed that the Overview and Scrutiny Officer will circulate any comments from Cabinet to Committee members, with a final programme being approved at the next meeting.

3.4 The work programmes have been developed following consultation including:

- Multiple emails to all Councillors
- Suggestions sought from all service managers
- Informal meeting with the Cabinet

3.5 Thirteen items were suggested by Councillors (including one item which was suggested separately by multiple Councillors). Seven of these items have been added to the work programme. Of the remaining six, one has been marked as a possibility pending further information while the others have been rejected. No items were submitted by Service Managers.

3.6 A summary of items submitted by Councillors and reasons why they have been included / not included are in the table below.

Scrutiny Topic	Reason for Suggestion	Accepted/R ejected (If rejected include reason why)	Notes	Suggested Committee to review (If approved)
Fly Tipping/Littering	Wants focus on Council action when on private land	Yes	Review last year with waste services – agreed to focus on enforcement angle.	Resources
Graffiti	As above	Yes	As above	Resources
DFGs	Looking how the DFGs are given out ,see if there's a more fairer way also how much did we spend last year	No	Reviewed last year. Recommendation to establish a cross party cabinet working group which was accepted.	NA
Council support for VCFS organisations	How do the Council support VCFS organisations	No	This item was rejected last year.	NA
GPs lack of funding, recruiting new GPs, reduced working arrangements	No reason given	No- Cllr Glen Harrison to raise at LCC Health Scrutiny	Agreed that district level Scrutiny could have little value here. Requested that instead Cllr Glen Harrison raise this issue at LCC Health Scrutiny.	Communities
Town Centre Events	Review of events planned and money spent	Yes	Rejected last year, at which time it was suggested to add to this years programme.	Either
Homelessness referral scheme	No reason given	No	Homelessness was reviewed last year	NA
Kingdom	Worthwhile exercise to have the kingdom contract and the benefits (if any) brought to committee. Just before the contract is up for renewal.	Yes	Already recommended that this be reviewed (By the Committee last year)	Resources
New Waste collection system	Analyse how the council has coped with the	Yes	Agreed to combine with Kingdom item if Scrutiny did want to look at this.	Resources

	<p>rollout of the new waste collection system.</p> <p>In terms of customer satisfaction, cleanliness of our streets and also the financial benefits</p>			
Hyndburn's Recovery Process for Council Tax Arrears	<p>Council Tax arrears was the highest debt category with, in some cases, bailiffs being instructed very early in the collection process, when there are other options, such as attachment of benefits. This latter issue is more pronounced in Hyndburn than Rossendale</p>	Yes		Communities
Universal Credit	<p>What impact has universal credit had on the residents of Hyndburn. In particular is it contributing to the 40% of children in Hyndburn living in poverty?</p>	Yes	<p>This item was on the agenda last year. Deferred several times.</p>	Communities
Taxi Licensing	<p>Public safety and the protection of our drivers and usage of low emission taxis due to environmental impact.</p> <p>Hyndburn Council has always taken public safety very seriously. This has also covered</p>	No – green panel will look at policy	<p>Last reviewed approx. 2014. Suggestion that green panel considers environmental issues relating to taxis.</p>	Resources

	<p>the environmental impact of the vehicles it licenses.</p> <p>Therefore could I make a recommendation that we discuss how the current policy could be strengthened in this regard.</p>			
<p>Management of green space associated with new housing development</p>	<p>I think looking at this issue creatively this has to be a priority. My experience in Rishton on this hasn't be great with a recent housing development introducing private management companies taking a large proportion of service charges for simply mowing modest strips of grass and the almost the entire budget going on back room office and admin costs. The current consultation on the local plan is proposing this as the only mechanism going forward. Personally I think this is a national scandal and I think HBC could do better. There's an opportunity with new house building in terms of more creative approaches to the</p>	<p>Possibility – Scrutiny Officer to discuss with Chief Planning Officer</p>	<p>Scrutiny Officer to discuss with Chief Planning Officer</p>	

	<p>greenspace that is created, particularly with a focus on increasing bio-diversity within maintenance-light planting schemes. I also think we need to look at alternative options on management including working with key partners like Hyndburn Prospects and this could have the effect of supporting their sustainability. I don't think any of this will be remotely easy but i do think it's an area we need to focus on cos of the environmental opportunity and the need to get a better deal for local people buying houses in the borough</p>			
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- 3.6 Meetings with the chairs and vice chairs also took place, and items for the work programme were discussed and selected in accordance with the Criteria for Selecting Work Programme Items (Appendix 2).
- 3.7 In addition, Cabinet members were invited to a work programme meeting with the chairs and vice chairs of both committees to put forward potential items.
- 3.8 We have sought to provisionally allocate items to specific meetings. These may be subject to change during the year, particularly where they involve the attendance of external and partner organisations.
- 3.9 As in previous years, additional items can be added to the work programmes as the year progresses.

4. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 **Not applicable to this report**

5. Consultations

5.1 All Councillors and Service Heads were given the opportunity to contribute to the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

6. **Implications**

Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)	None arising from this report
Legal and human rights implications	Not applicable
Assessment of risk	Not applicable
Equality and diversity implications <i>A Customer First Analysis should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not applicable

7. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:**
List of Background Papers

7.1 *None*

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes 2019/20

	Draft Resources Work Programme 2019/20
Meeting Date (All 3pm unless otherwise stated)	Work Topics
16 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of Work Programme - Appointment of Cooptees - Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government
3 rd Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enforcement of Fly Tipping and Littering on Private Land - Green Review Update
31 st October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Littering Enforcement Contract - Report on the New Recycling Scheme
19th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green Review – Update from Scrutiny Panel - People Strategy
18 th February	Budget
19 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hyndburn Leisure Financial Update - Performance Review

Draft Communities and Wellbeing Work Programme 2019/20	
Meeting date (All 10am unless otherwise stated)	Work Topics
11 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirmation of Work Programme - Appointment of Cooptees - Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local Government - Impact of Universal Credit (DWP) - agreed to defer
4 th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recovery Process for Council Tax Arrears - Impact of Universal Credit (DWP)
30 th October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Town Centre Events
18 th December	Available for in year items
18 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crime and Disorder - Update on the merger of Accrington and Rossendale College

Appendix 2

Criteria for selecting work programme items:

1. Is this topic a key priority for the Council? (e.g. as identified in the Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Strategy)
2. Is this topic important to the public? (e.g. are Members aware of public concern, has the issue been raised at Area Councils, has it been raised via public consultation?)
3. Is there evidence of poor performance or value for money concerns which Overview & Scrutiny should investigate? (e.g. from performance information, external and internal audit reports etc)
4. Does the Council spend a significant proportion of its budget on this issue?
5. Is this issue important to Members?
6. Is anyone else already looking at this issue? (i.e. is it really necessary for Overview & Scrutiny to spend time on this?)
7. Is this the right time to look at this issue? (e.g. is it about to change anyway?)
8. Will the time spent on this item be worthwhile? (e.g. can Overview & Scrutiny really make a contribution to this issue?)
9. Is there scope to involve the public, voluntary groups or other organisations in this topic?