

REPORT TO:	Special Scrutiny Committee	
DATE:	16 th July 2024	
REPORT OF:	Cllr Kate Walsh (Chair of the Special Overview & Scrutiny Committee)	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Susan Gardner, Scrutiny and Policy Officer	
TITLE OF REPORT:	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes 2025-26	
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 that the Special Overview and Scrutiny Committee gives consideration to the proposed work programme for 2025-26.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Special Overview & Scrutiny Committee, having given consideration, approves the attached Work Programme for 2025-26.

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;

"The chair and vice chair of each overview and scrutiny committee will meet with the Cabinet within four weeks of each Annual Meeting to discuss the Cabinet's policy priorities for the coming year. The chairs and vice chairs will propose a draft work programme for their committee within two weeks of that meeting. The draft work programmes will be submitted to the next following meeting of the Cabinet for comment 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 There were no comments received from Cabinet for the Committee to consider.

3.4 The work programmes have been developed following consideration of the Council's guide for selecting items for scrutiny and consultation including:

- Emails to all Councillors
- Suggestions sought from all service managers
- Social media coverage for public suggestions
- Informal meeting with the Leader of the Council and the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees.

3.5 There were forty-six requests for items received for consideration for Scrutiny from Service Heads, Councillors and members of the public. Items of a similar nature have been merged. These items were discussed in depth between the Scrutiny Chairs and the Leader of the Council before producing the work programmes. It should be noted that there were far too many suggested items for all of them to be included in the work programmes and therefore, some items had to be rejected on that basis.

3.6 Several items, including statutory items and previously agreed standing items (as listed at the end of the appended Work Programmes) have been included in the work programme.

3.7 Items which were not deemed suitable for Scrutiny have not been included in the programmes.

3.8 The Chairs of the Scrutiny Committees have sought to provisionally allocate items to specific meetings. These may be subject to change during the year.

3.9 As in previous years, additional items can be added to the work programmes as the year progresses following scrutiny procedure rules.

3.10 The three Overview and Scrutiny Work Programmes can be seen in Appendix 1.

3.11 All suggested items (including those rejected and reasons for rejection) can be seen in Appendix 2.

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.

5.2 Members of the public were invited to suggest items via social media.

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 Hyndburn Borough Council – Constitution (Part 4,C) – [- Hyndburn Borough Council](#)
Hyndburn Borough Council – Cabinet (18/06/25) [- Hyndburn Borough Council](#)

8. Freedom of Information

8.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.