## Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme prioritisation guide.

An effective scrutiny work programme should focus on strategic corporate objectives and on making a difference for the residents of Wyre. Prioritisation is essential, and scrutiny could benefit from an agreed methodology to filter and select topics for the work programme.

Consider the following criteria when thinking about what is appropriate to put in the O&S Work Programme. A topic should not be considered for review if it has been reviewed during the current 4-year political cycle. The key to effective scrutiny is that it makes a difference and adds value.

The first two questions/criteria are essential for an item being included for scrutiny review. If both are no then it is not to be included in the Work Programme and you should not proceed.

## The GATEKEEPER QUESTIONS to ensure strategic focus:



Is the issue a priority of the council (as set in the Business Plan)? Is it a matter of significant, demonstrable public concern and importance to the whole of the borough (as raised through ward councillors, local media etc)?



Additional questions/criteria should also be considered on a case-by-case basis. These will help with ideas and determine which have the highest potential to benefit the council and add value:

Is it a high spending service compared to other similar authorities?

Is it a performance issue identified through quarterly business reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee?

Is it a Key Decision?

Is it new Government guidance or legislation?

Is it a Government priority?

Is it an important issue raised by an external organisation?