

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Marianne Hesketh, Service Director Performance and Innovation	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25 June 2018	6

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19 – update report

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the committee reviews the contents of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018/19 and amends it as necessary.
- 1.2 That the report be noted.

2. Current and completed work

2.1 Flooding task group

The Flooding Task Group has met twice as part of its review into the roles and responsibilities of councillors in flooding events. The group has heard evidence from the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder and senior officers.

The task group has recently send a short questionnaire to all councillors asking them their views about what their roles and responsibilities are in relation to flooding.

A further meeting will be required to consider the findings from the questionnaire and for members to agree their conclusions and recommendations.

2.2 My Homes Choice

A task group has been convened to review the proposed changes to the arrangements for the allocation and letting of social housing in Wyre via My Home Choice Fylde Coast. Seven councillors have put their names forward to take part in this short review and the first meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 July 2018, when the Neighbourhood Services and Community Safety Portfolio Holder will also be present.

3. Future work

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme sets out the committee's work for the coming year. It includes topics for consideration at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and those that members wish to scrutinise in more detail as part of a task group review. There needs to be a degree of flexibility in the Programme, as priorities can change over time and unpredicted topics can arise which might need to be incorporated into the Programme at relatively short notice. The current version of the Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1.

3.2 At the start of the 2018/19 municipal year a number of topics were identified, which had the potential to be the subject of scrutiny task group reviews. The up to date position in relation to each of those is as follows:

Environmental Crime – the committee was advised at the meeting on 21 May 2018 that a new officer would be appointed within the next few months and the advice from the Director was that it would be beneficial to commence the review once s/he had been in post for sufficient time to be fully aware of the pertinent issues. It was likely that the review would be able to start towards the end of 2018 at the earliest.

Digital transformation – options for funding of devices for the Modern.gov committee management system.

Phase 1 of the modern.gov system has gone well. Phase 2 of the project has yet to be scoped. Before Phase 2 commences, there needs to be some further work carried out to determine which the most suitable device to facilitate paperless working is. The ICT team is currently assessing iPads versus Android devices. Due to lack of ICT resources currently available, it is unlikely that a decision can be made on this until the summer. As soon as this is determined a trial will commence with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members. The team is aiming for September. Phase 2 can then be scoped and the financial implications identified based on the chosen devices.

Parking consultation – at the committee meeting on 21 May 2018 it was agreed:

“That a further report be requested from the Head of Engineering Services once the Cabinet has considered the consultation report, with a view to setting up a scrutiny task group to examine clearly identified aspects of the proposed car parking strategy”.

Fish processing industry – officers are still developing the project brief so scrutiny involvement in the short term would be premature. Timescales have not yet been agreed for this but it is likely to be available in the autumn.

Better Care Fund – There is nothing specifically identified that would

benefit from a scrutiny review, so this topic will be removed from the Work Programme.

It is widely accepted that scrutiny should be member-led, as confirmed in many guides on scrutiny best practice. At Wyre, although councillors have always taken the lead, we have probably taken rather more of a joint approach than some other local authorities. The focus has always been to ensure that scrutiny plays a significant role in improving services for residents.

- 3.3** The committee has previously used the annual benchmarking report (see Appendix 2) as a source of useful information to assist in developing the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme. The report was considered by the Cabinet on 18 October 2017, and subsequently by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 November 2017. The report considered the findings of the 2017/18 benchmarking study, a key element used to demonstrate that the council has proper arrangements in place for securing value for money.

Report Author	Telephone No.	Email	Date
Peter Foulsham, Scrutiny Officer	01253 887606	peter.foulsham@wyre.gov.uk	8 June 2018

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018/19

Appendix 2 Cost Profiles – Benchmarking Results 2017/18