



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Director of Finance and Governance (S151 Officer), Clare James	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	10 June 2024

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25 – update report

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1** To update the Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25.

2. Council priorities

- 2.1** A well run, forward thinking council that puts customers first.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** For members to note the update report.
- 3.2** For members to review and note the updated overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities.
- 3.3** For members to prioritise and agree topic(s) for review.

4. Current and completed work

4.1 LGA Ombudsman Annual Letter

It is suggested that the LGA Ombudsman Annual Letter be moved to the January meeting as this letter is considered by Cabinet in the Autumn, therefore the information is not yet available. By reviewing this in January it will assist members in their work programme prioritisation for 2025/26.

4.2 Overview and Scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and county authorities

Simon Hoare MP, Minister for Local Government, published updated statutory guidance for overview and scrutiny in April 2024.

This guidance is a refreshed version of the statutory guidance published in May 2019, which was reviewed by the committee in September 2019. Dr Stephanie Snape an Associate Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies (INLOGOV) at the University of Birmingham attended the meeting and facilitate a discussion, to help the committee identify and understand the most relevant aspect of the guidance.

The new guidance provides advice for senior leaders, members of the overview and scrutiny committee, scrutiny officers and any officers with a role in supporting scrutiny committee.

A main distinguishing factor to the 2019 guidance, is that it has a greater focus on combined authorities and combined county authorities, it confirms that the overview and scrutiny committees in these authorities have powers to review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the mayor of any general function, and also on matters that affect the authority's area or inhabitants of the area.

The guidance covers:

1. Introduction and context
2. Culture
3. Resourcing
4. Selecting committee members
5. Power to access information
6. Planning work
7. Evidence sessions

It also contains three annexes:

- Annex 1: Illustrative scenario – creating an executive-scrutiny protocol
- Annex 2: Illustrative scenario – engaging independent technical advisers
- Annex 3: Illustrative scenario – approaching an external organisation to appear before a committee

The overview and scrutiny: statutory guidance for councils, combined authorities and combined county authorities can be viewed [here](#).

4.3 Task Group Reviews

The Citizens Advice Lancashire West task group is completed, and the committee currently have no task groups running. Members are encouraged to prioritise and agree their next topic(s) for review.

5. Work Programme

- 5.1** The Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 1.

6. Alternative options considered and rejected

6.1 Not applicable to this report.

Financial, Legal and Climate Change implications	
Finance	None arising from this report.
Legal	None arising from this report.
Climate Change	None arising from this report.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

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List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None.		

List of appendices

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25