



Wednesday, 18 June 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held on Thursday, 26 June 2025 in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston, NG9 1AB, commencing at 6.00 pm.

Should you require advice on declaring an interest in any item on the agenda, please contact the Monitoring Officer at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully

Chief Executive

To Councillors: S Dannheimer (Chair) H Land
S Webb (Vice-Chair) D L MacRae
J M Owen (Vice-Chair) A W G A Stockwell
S J Carr C M Tideswell
H L Crosby E Winfield
H J Faccio K Woodhead
K A Harlow

AGENDA

1. Apologies

To receive apologies and to be notified of the attendance of substitutes.

2. Declarations of Interest

(Pages 3 - 10)

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest in any item on the agenda.

3. Minutes

(Pages 11 - 12)

The Committee is asked to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2025.

4. Consideration of Call - in

To consider any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to the call in of a decision.

5. GamCare Responses

A verbal update will be provided to the Committee from the Licensing Manager in relation to the responses from GamCare.

6. Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25

(Pages 13 - 36)

The Committee is asked to review the Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25 and to recommend the Report to be forwarded to Council.

7. Scrutiny Requests for the Committee to Consider to add to their Work Programme.

(Pages 37 - 40)

To review suggestions from Councillor A Cooper to add the topics to the Scrutiny Work Programme.

8. Cabinet Work Programme

(Pages 41 - 42)

To inform the Committee of items on the Cabinet's work programme, from which items for scrutiny may be identified.

9. Work Programme

(Pages 43 - 46)

Committee is asked to approve its Work Programme, including identifying topics for scrutiny, that will help to achieve the Council's key priorities and associated objectives.

Report of the Monitoring Officer

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. Purpose of Report

Members are requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest in any item on the agenda. The following information is extracted from the Code of Conduct, in addition to advice from the Monitoring Officer which will assist Members to consider any declarations of interest.

Part 2 – Member Code of Conduct

General Obligations:

10. Interest

10.1 You will register and disclose your interests in accordance with the provisions set out in Appendix A.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of Members of the Council. The register is publically available and protects you by demonstrating openness and willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting which allows the public, Council employees and fellow Councillors know which of your interests gives rise to a conflict of interest. If in doubt you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as defined in Appendix A of the Code of Conduct, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Advice from the Monitoring Officer:

On reading the agenda it is advised that you:

1. Consider whether you have any form of interest to declare as set out in the Code of Conduct.
2. Consider whether you have a declaration of any bias or predetermination to make as set out at the end of this document
3. Update Democratic Services and the Monitoring Officer and or Deputy Monitoring Officers of any declarations you have to make ahead of the meeting and take advice as required.
4. Use the Member Interest flowchart to consider whether you have an interest to declare and what action to take.
5. Update the Chair at the meeting of any interest declarations as follows:

‘I have an interest in Item xx of the agenda’

'The nature of my interest is therefore the type of interest is
DPI/ORI/NRI/BIAS/PREDETERMINATION
'The action I will take is...'

This will help Officer record a more accurate record of the interest being declared and the actions taken. You will also be able to consider whether it is necessary to send a substitute Members in your place and to provide Democratic Services with notice of your substitute Members name.

Note: If at the meeting you recognise one of the speakers and only then become aware of an interest you should declare your interest and take any necessary action

6. Update your Member Interest Register of any registerable interests within 28days of becoming aware of the Interest.

Ask yourself do you have any of the following interest to declare?

1. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

A "Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" is any interest described as such in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and includes an interest of yourself, or of your Spouse/Partner (if you are aware of your Partner's interest) that falls within the following categories: Employment, Trade, Profession, Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Tenancies and Securities.

2. OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (ORIs)

An "Other Registerable Interest" is a personal interest in any business of your authority which relates to or is likely to affect:

- a) any body of which you are in general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority; or
- b) any body
 - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
 - (ii) anybody directed to charitable purposes or
 - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a Member or in a position of general control or management.

3. NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS (NRIs)

"Non-Registrable Interests" are those that you are not required to register but need to be disclosed when a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing or a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate that is not a DPI.

A matter "directly relates" to one of your interests where the matter is directly about that interest. For example, the matter being discussed is an application about a particular property in which you or somebody associated with you has a financial interest.

A matter “affects” your interest where the matter is not directly about that interest but would still have clear implications for the interest. For example, the matter concerns a neighbouring property.

Declarations and Participation in Meetings

1. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIs)

1.1 Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests which include both the interests of yourself and your partner then:

Action to be taken

- **you must disclose the nature of the interest** at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent, whether or not such interest is registered in the Council’s register of interests of Member and Co-opted Members or for which you have made a pending notification. If it is a sensitive interest you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest
- **you must not participate in any discussion** of that particular business at the meeting, or if you become aware of a disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting you must not participate further in any discussion of the business, including by speaking as a member of the public
- **you must not participate in any vote** or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting and
- **you must withdraw from the room** at this point to make clear to the public that you are not influencing the meeting in anyway and to protect you from the criminal sanctions that apply should you take part, unless you have been granted a Dispensation.

2. OTHER REGISTERABLE INTERESTS (ORIs)

2.1 Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests i.e. relating to a body you may be involved in:

- **you must disclose** the interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent, whether or not such interest is registered in the Council’s register of interests of Member and Co-opted Members or for which you have made a pending notification. If it is a sensitive interest you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest
- **you must not take part in any discussion or vote** on the matter, but may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting
- **you must withdraw from the room** unless you have been granted a Dispensation.

3. NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS (NRIs)

3.1 Where a matter arises at a meeting, which is not registrable but may become relevant when a particular item arises i.e. interests which relate to you and /or other people you are connected with (e.g. friends, relative or close associates) then:

- **you must** disclose the interest; if it is a sensitive interest you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest
 - **you must not take part in any discussion or vote**, but may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting; and
 - **you must withdraw** from the room unless you have been granted a Dispensation.
-

Dispensation and Sensitive Interests

A “Dispensation” is agreement that you may continue to participate in the decision-making process notwithstanding your interest as detailed at section 12 of the Code of the Conduct and the Appendix.

A “Sensitive Interest” is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the Member, or a person connected with the Member, being subject to violence or intimidation. In any case where this Code of Conduct requires to you to disclose an interest (subject to the agreement of the Monitoring Officer in accordance with paragraph 2.4 of this Appendix regarding registration of interests), you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, if it is a Sensitive Interest in such circumstances you just have to disclose that you have a Sensitive Interest under S32(2) of the Localism Act 2011. You must update the Monitoring Officer when the interest is no longer sensitive, so that the interest can be recorded, made available for inspection and published.

BIAS and PREDETERMINATION

The following are not explicitly covered in the code of conduct but are important legal concepts to ensure that decisions are taken solely in the public interest and not to further any private interests.

The risk in both cases is that the decision maker does not approach the decision with an objective, open mind.

This makes the local authority’s decision challengeable (and may also be a breach of the Code of Conduct by the Councillor).

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officers, if you need assistance ahead of the meeting.

BIAS

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias. If you have been involved in an issue in such a manner or to such an extent that the public are likely to perceive you to be biased in your judgement of the public interest:

- a) you should not take part in the decision-making process
- b) you should state that your position in this matter prohibits you from taking part
- c) you should leave the room.

PREDETERMINATION

Where a decision maker has completely made up his/her mind before the decision is taken or that the public are likely to perceive you to be predetermined due to comments or statements you have made:

- a) you should not take part in the decision-making process
- b) you should state that your position in this matter prohibits you from taking part
- c) you should leave the room.

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Registerable Interests

These are interests that you are required to register in accordance with the Code of Conduct. They are interests that you would know about in advance of an item coming up (e.g. land you own) and you should have included them when filling in your register of interests.

What type of Registerable Interest do you have in this matter?

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

These are any interests that are described as DPIs under the Code of Conduct and include both the interests of yourself and of your partner.

Other Registerable Interests

These are personal interests that relate to certain types of bodies that you may be involved in as set out in the Code of Conduct.

Does the matter directly relate to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests?

No

Does the matter directly relate to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests?

No

Does the matter affect a financial interest or the wellbeing of yourself or of a friend, relative or close associate?

No

Is the financial interest or wellbeing affected to a greater extent than the financial interests or wellbeing of the majority of inhabitants?

No

Would a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest?

No

You must:

- Disclose the interest;
- Not speak on the matter;
- Not participate in any discussion or vote; and
- Not remain in the room unless you have a Dispensation

You must:

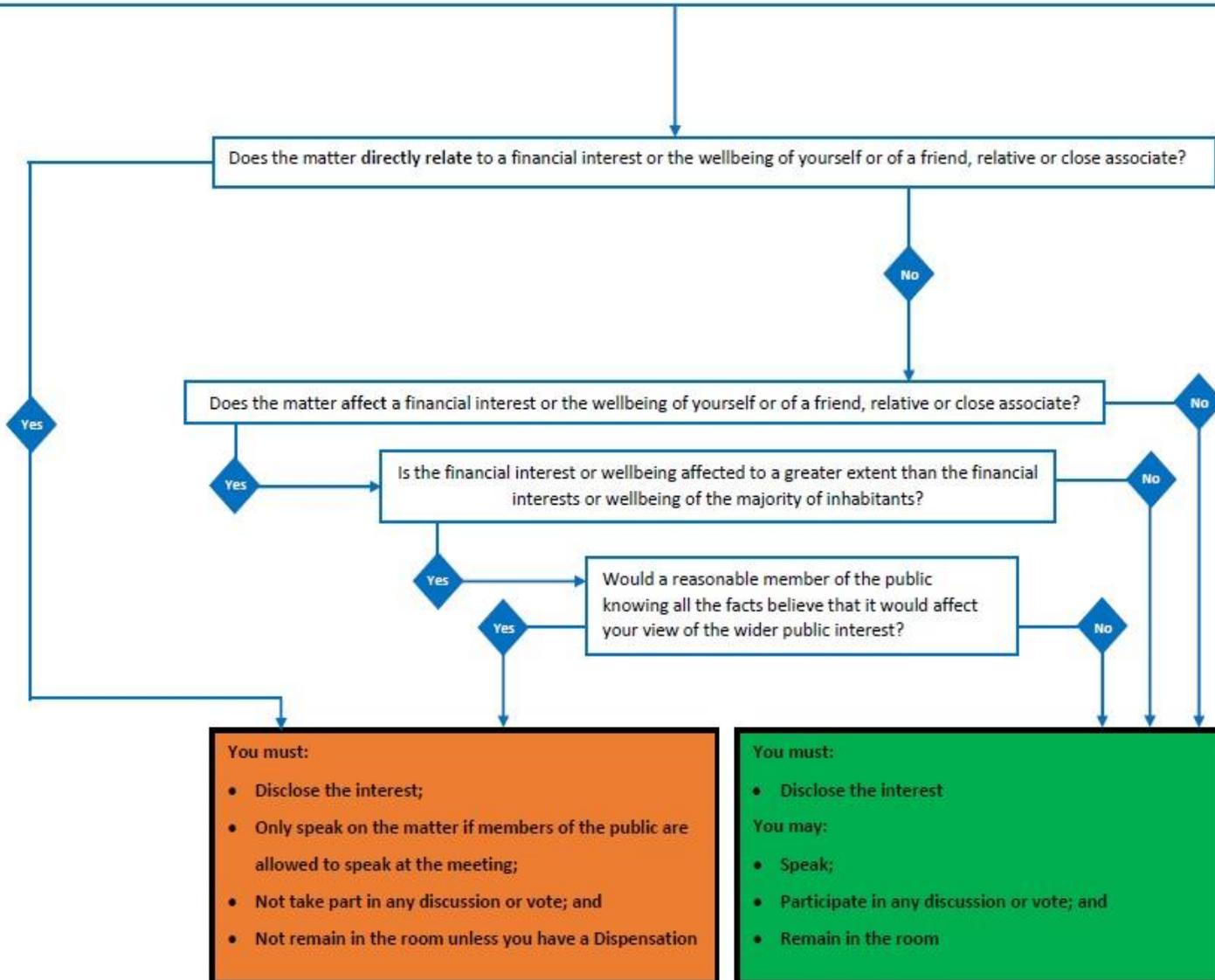
- Disclose the interest;
- Only speak on the matter if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting;
- Not take part in any discussion or vote; and
- Not remain in the room unless you have a Dispensation

You must:

- Disclose the interest
- You may:
- Speak;
 - Participate in any discussion or vote; and
 - Remain in the room

Non-Registerable Interests

These are interests that you are not required to register but may become relevant when a particular item arises. These are usually interests that relate to other people you are connected with (e.g. friends, relatives or close associates) but can include your own interests where you would not have been expected to register them.



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2025

Present: Councillor S Dannheimer, Chair

Councillors: E Williamson (Vice-Chair)
H L Crosby
K A Harlow
H Land
R D MacRae
C M Tideswell
S Webb
E Winfield
H G Khaled MBE (substitute)
P A Smith (substitute)

39 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T J Marsh, J M Owen, A W G A Stockwell and K Woodhead.

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 20 and 21 January 2025 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

42 MINUTES FROM WORKING GROUPS

The minutes from the Scrutiny Working Group meeting held on 18 January 2025 were noted.

43 CONSIDERATION OF CALL-IN

There were no call-ins to be considered.

44 HOUSING REPAIRS UPDATE

Members received an update from the Assistant Director of Housing, who stated that following the previous update recruitment processes had been completed and there was a feeling of positivity around the Housing Repairs Team. Improvements had

included a new schedule of rates, new diagnosis software, a new telephony system and new software to change and book appointments. It was noted that the satisfaction rates for repairs had risen.

The Committee thanked the Assistant Director for the update and stated that responses had been actioned quickly and satisfactorily.

45 CABINET WORK PROGRAMME

Members noted the Cabinet Work Programme.

46 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved.

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25

1. Purpose of Report

The Committee is asked to review the Annual Scrutiny Report 2024/25 and to recommend the Report to be forwarded to Council.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND that Council NOTES the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Scrutiny Report for 2024/25.

3. Detail

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report reflects on the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2024/25 and looks forward to Overview and Scrutiny activity in 2025/26 (**Appendix** attached). The report is a summary of Overview and Scrutiny over the last year and the positive impacts secured on the Council's policy, and service delivery. Information has been provided when approval was required from the Chair of the Committee to add items to the forward plan that had missed the published deadline and were key decisions or exempt in line with the Council's Constitution.

4. Financial Implications.

The comments from the Assistant Director of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

Whilst there are no direct legal implications arising from this report under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet on matters which affect the Council's area or the inhabitant of its area.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not required.

11. Background Papers

Nil.



Broxtowe
Borough
COUNCIL

Annual Report Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024/25



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Foreword

“Over the past year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has carried out robust scrutiny of the Council’s priorities, as identified in the Corporate Plan, and monitored the Council’s budget, and scrutinised the 2024/25 budget proposals.

Scrutiny has recommended to Cabinet issues that have been raised from Members. The next step will be engaging more with the wider community to ensure we focus on issues that matter to residents and have a real impact on Council policies and services. This report summarises the main issues which have been reviewed and challenged throughout the year and highlights some of the key achievements.

Some significant achievements for Overview and Scrutiny this year include:

- Equalities, Diversity and Accessibility across the Council.
- D.H. Lawrence Museum one of the recommendations to put a departure voice on the local buses was agreed.
- Markets.
- Housing Repairs.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is cross-party and aims to be non-political, it is a critical friend to provide clarity and influence positive conversations. The Committee aims to amplify the voice of residents and invite witnesses to contribute to the meetings and share both expertise and lived experiences.

I am happy to submit this report to Council.”



Councillor S Dannheimer
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Overview and Scrutiny at Broxtowe

Overview and Scrutiny is a key part of the local democratic governance arrangements for local authorities in England and Wales. Effective scrutiny helps secure the efficient delivery of public services and drives improvements within the authority itself. Authorities who welcome challenge and recognise the value scrutiny can bring.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee continues to be an active and integral part of the Council's governance arrangements. During 2024/25 the Committee Members have acted as a critical friend as they have scrutinised the selected topics. It provides a vehicle for elected Members to influence the development of Council policies and enhances transparency and accountability to residents. The Committee also suggest service improvements through recommendations.

Scrutiny engagement has included appointing working groups, received presentations and taken reports with question-and-answer sessions. This has enabled scrutiny to take an in-depth look at specific areas within the Council and has provided a variety of opportunity for Members to discuss and add value to key service areas.

During 2024/25, the Committee has received no call-ins. Legislation permits Overview and Scrutiny Committees to investigate, make reports and recommendations regarding Cabinet decisions that have been agreed, but are pending subject to call-in. The decision is suspended until a committee decides on the reason and outcome. The Committee can ask Cabinet to reconsider its decision based on further evidence gathered.

The Committee has maintained oversight of the Council's budget performance throughout the year, scrutinising key areas of overspend, underspend and emerging financial risks alongside key performances within business plans at the budget Overview and Scrutiny meetings. The Constitution requires the Executive to refer its initial budget proposals to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration each year.

Councillors S Dannheimer, E Williamson, and T Marsh, as Chair and Vice-Chairs respectively, would like to thank all the Officers and Members who have been involved in supporting and assisting in the Overview and Scrutiny Process over the past year.

Membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2024/25

Councillor S Dannheimer (Chair)
Councillor T J Marsh (Vice-Chair)
Councillor E Williamson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor H L Crosby
Councillor K A Harlow
Councillor H Land
Councillor R D MacRae
Councillor J M Owen
Councillor A W G A Stockwell
Councillor C M Tideswell
Councillor S Webb
Councillor E Winfield



“Overview and Scrutiny plays an important function in the work of the Council, providing valuable insight, experience and a second look to the work of the Executive.”



“Having been a Member of Scrutiny for two years, I appreciate the valuable role that Scrutiny is able to play in enhancing the Council’s performance. The adage that Scrutiny should be a critical friend of the Council is only too true.”



“Having site visits to areas of scrutiny provides hands-on evidence to support recommendations to Cabinet.”

How Does Scrutiny make a difference?



The principal power of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to influence the policies and decisions made by the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services. The Committee gathers evidence on issues affecting local people and makes recommendations based on its findings.

Call-in Information

The call-in Procedure at the Council provides a way for non-Executive Members of the Council to refer Executive decisions to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before implementation. Once a decision has been called in, the matter must be included on the agenda of an Overview and Scrutiny Committing meeting for review. Further information relating to the call-in process can be found within the Council's Constitution. [Constitution on Wednesday, 9 October 2024: Broxtowe Borough Council](#)

2022/23 - No call-ins were made during 2022/23.

2023/24 - Two call-ins were made during 2023/24 and were resolved within legislative timescales

2024/25 - No call-ins.

Requests for reports to be added and approved to the Forward Plan

A "forward plan regulation 28-day notice" refers to a requirement in Local Government regulations that mandates Councils to publish a list of upcoming "key decisions" they plan to make, providing at least 28 days' notice to the public before the decision is finalised, allowing for transparency and public engagement.

Key points about the 28-day notice in a forward plan:

- **Purpose:**

To give residents and interested parties enough time to review proposed decisions, raise concerns, and potentially influence the Council's final decision.

- **What is included in a forward plan:**

Details about the key decision, such as the subject matter, proposed action, responsible Officer, date of the decision-making meeting, and relevant background information. Any report where the decision will be made in a private session.

- **Where to access a forward plan:**

The Council publish the forward plans on the website, making it accessible to the public. [Browse plans - Cabinet, 2025: Broxtowe Borough Council](#)

- **Legal basis:**

This requirement is typically based on Local Government legislation that outlines procedures for decision-making and public engagement.

If an urgent decision needs to be made, and cannot wait until the next Cabinet meeting, the report requires the permission of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the Constitution, to include the report in the next Cabinet meeting. A Statutory Notice must be published stating the reason why the decision needs to be taken as urgent and was not identified in the published Forward Plan giving 28 days' notice of a decision being made.

The Chair of the Committee has approved a total of seven requests for either a Key Decision or an Exempt decision to be made in the period May 2024 to April 2025. The

reports were not identified in the published forward plan giving 28 days' notice before a decision had to be made, and the decisions were considered urgent.

Request to add to the Forward Plan	Decision Date Cabinet	Subject	Reason for Urgency	Date approved by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Notice Published
1	23 July 2024	Opportunity to Purchase One Block of Flats	Contractual and item was exempt.	9 July 2024
2	23 July 2024	Urgency Powers Exempt report	Item was exempt	5 July 2024
3	3 September 2024	New Skate Park Location	Item was exempt	7 August 2024
4	4 February 2025	Establishment of a Broxtowe Local Enterprise Agency	The principle of setting up a Broxtowe Local Enterprise Agency was confirmed A report was required to come back to Cabinet as soon as possible so that any UKSPF funding supporting the initiative can be defrayed before March 2025	15 January 2025
5	11 March 2025	Approval of Interim Housing Delivery Post	Approval as an item required to be in exempt	17 February 2025
6	11 March 2025	Opportunity to buy a site to develop for affordable housing	Contractual and exempt items.	18 February 2025
7	11 March 2025	Development of an application to the National Wealth Fund for the D.H. Lawrence Health and Wellbeing Centre in Eastwood	Funding opportunity with savings of more than £250,000	17 February 2025

Special Urgency Notice

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has approved two Special Urgency Notices in the period May 2024-April 2025.

Cabinet Special Urgency Notices - 11 March 2025

Special Urgency Notice - Regulation 19 Consultation on the Draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan.

Approval was sought to undertake a further Regulation 19 Consultation on the draft Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. A previous consultation closed on 16 December 2024. This further consultation was required due to the publication of the new National Planning Policy Framework and the decision of Gedling Borough Council to withdraw from the Strategic Plan. The Plan had been revised to update housing targets and to remove Gedling from the Strategic Plan. Consultation began on 12 March 2025 to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework transitional arrangements. Failure to undertake the consultation on this date would result in having to start plan production again and significantly increase the housing targets, resulting in considerable delay and expense to the three authorities (Broxtowe, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe). A call-in period would therefore prevent the consultation being undertaken within the required timeframe.

The report was a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it will be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

Special Urgency Notice - Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules.

The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved a Special Urgency Notice for a decision to be made at the 11 March 2025 Cabinet meeting for the report titled Waiver of Contract Procedure Rules. Construction works were required for Bramcote Crematorium prior to installation of two new Cremators. The construction work schedule was dictated by the cremator delivery which had been affected by delays. It was anticipated that work was required to start on or around 1 March 2025 with a completion date of approximately July 2025.

Due to time constraints, a Financial Procedure Rules (Contracts) waiver was being sought under Chapter 4 Part 2 Financial Regulations (Contract) and was in accordance with the Corporate Plan objectives for Environment and Climate Change. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the call-in procedure shall not apply to this decision. With the reason being that any delay in implementation caused by the procedure would seriously prejudice the Council's opportunity to comply with the regulations as detailed in the report.

The report was a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2010 as it may be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area and may cost more than £250,000. In accordance with the regulations, it was impracticable to give 28 days' notice of the taking of the following decision, which was a Key Decision to be taken by the Executive at its meeting on 11 March 2025 permission was obtained from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the report as an urgent item and the statutory notice was published.

Member Development

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee received external training on the effectiveness of Scrutiny. The evening was engaging with lots of questions from Members. The Committee have received regular updates from the Head of Democratic Service and the Democratic Services Manager.

East Midlands Councils Regional Scrutiny Network

The East Midlands Councils Regional Scrutiny Network is a forum for learning, sharing, promoting, supporting and developing the scrutiny functions across the region. The Council plays a proactive role in supporting and contributing to the work of the network which meets on a quarterly basis. The Chair and Democratic Services Manager attend the scrutiny network both virtually and face-to-face. Opportunities provided including meeting the Deputy Chief Executive from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny who provided a presentation on Budget Scrutiny at the last Network meeting.

Key exploration and development areas for 2024/25 included:

- Planning a scrutiny programme
- Relationship building with organisations outside of own Authority.
- Budget Scrutiny along with building a financial planning programme for all year-round scrutiny.

Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS)

Founded in 2003 to help councils implement transformative governance following the Local Government Act 2000, CfGS has since grown into a national charity committed to improving governance across all levels of government in England, Wales and beyond.

In an environment where social, economic, and political landscapes are shifting rapidly, the need for strong, transparent, and accountable governance has never been greater. At CfGS, they are passionate about fostering a culture of openness and integrity for decision-making in public services.

They believe that the best decisions are made when they are challenged constructively, grounded in evidence, and inclusive of voices that matter, elected representatives, those directly impacted, and key stakeholders alike. The purpose is to

be the driving force behind this kind of governance, championing the behaviours and values that lead to more just, equitable, and effective outcomes. It's about inspiring change and shaping a future where every decision is made with accountability and the greater good in mind. CfGS collaborate with like-minded national bodies, think tanks, and consultancies, all united by a shared vision: to ensure that better scrutiny leads to better governance, and ultimately, a better society for all.

The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended a presentation from the Deputy Chief Executive of Centre for Governance and Scrutiny on Budget Scrutiny and effective questioning for scrutiny to be involved in early budget meetings.

Further Opportunities provided to Members include:

- Providing bespoke support to review and improve governance and scrutiny functions.
- Training courses including leadership in scrutiny and oversight.
- National Conferences.
- Regular updates and information to Members and Officers.

Key Achievements in 2024/25

D.H. Lawrence Museum

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a review of the D.H. Lawrence Museum to review the marketing of the venue and potential improvements following the visitor figures reported to the budget scrutiny meeting. It was decided that the review would be carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group. The review was requested by Councillor P J Owen and was in accordance with the Council's priorities. The purpose of the review was to achieve outcomes as outlined within the scoping report:

- To understand the role of Heritage for Broxtowe Borough Council.
- To review the marketing of the venue and potential improvements.

The Working Group was Chaired by Councillor K Woodhead, with Councillor A W G A Stockwell Owen as the Vice Chair. Councillor W Mee was also part of the Working Group.

Considerations included lack of advertising especially with free entry to residents of the Borough, the blue line trail connecting the heritage sites of D.H. Lawrence had become worn on the pavements and was no longer being used. Members wanted to see this re-established along with consideration to enhance a digital experience. Volunteers were considered to support the museum. However, it was explained that volunteering could be labour intensive with limited employees to support them. Eastwood Town Council was keen to engage further with the Museum to support events and initiatives and to support having a regular item on the agenda for updates. External funding was suggested as an option to fund some of the initiatives that was recommended as part of the review.

The following recommendations were put to Cabinet and approved accordingly.

Recommendations

1. To produce new leaflets to advertise the D.H. Lawrence Museum in Nottinghamshire Places of Interest and Tourist Centres.
2. To request that Eastwood Town Council to put an item on their agenda for updates from the Museum and events.
3. To identify external funding opportunities to support appropriate projects within the D.H. Lawrence Museum.
4. To consider the feasibility of Sunday opening hours and the associated costs.
5. To review the current entrance prices to the D.H. Lawrence Museum.
6. To identify funding to support re-establishment of the Blue Line Trail and consider options for enhancing the offer digitally.
7. To liaise with partners such as Nottinghamshire County Council and Eastwood Town Council to improve signage around Eastwood to promote the D.H. Lawrence Museum.
8. To suggest to Trent Barton that the Museum be added as a departure point at the bus stop for Alexander Street, Eastwood within their communications to passengers.
9. To review the D.H. Lawrence action plan and financial data in 6 to 12 months' time to allow for a full twelve months of data and for recommendations from the Arts Council to be made available as part of the Museum re-accreditation process.

Members of the Committee will receive an update on progress report from the recommendations for the D.H Lawrence Museum review at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 25 September 2025.



Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee established a review of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the Council, to be carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Working Group. The review was requested by Councillor S Dannheimer, who suggested that a review should consider whether the Council met the needs of all service users, Members and employees. The review was completed in stages and submitted to Cabinet. The Working Group members were as follows:

S Dannheimer
C M Tideswell
S Webb
E Williamson
E Winfield.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee Working Group's presented their findings of the review into Equality, Diversity and Inclusion at the Council to Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was in accordance with the Council's corporate values of continuous improvement and delivering value for money. The outcomes were as follows:

- To develop recommendations to support improvements.
- To improve the overall Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within the Council including service users, Members and employees.

The following recommendations were presented to Cabinet to consider that:

- 1. The Human Resources Manager shares the Neurodiversity Policy with all Members and employees.**
- 2. To increase awareness of Neurodiversity and support available to employees and Members.**
- 3. To consider the provision of additional resources for the Communities team to ensure at least one event per quarter and a minimum of four in a year, be organised.**
- 4. To consider changing the counter space at the D.H. Lawrence Museum to be more accessible to customers and incorporate an area for a wheelchair user to access the digital tour.**
- 5. To consider the provision of ear defenders, to offer visitors who may have sensory processing differences and additional audio headsets to enhance the D.H. Lawrence experience to all.**
- 6. To increase signage within the museum to increase awareness of health and safety issues and accessibility and to provide signposting to the nearest accessible toilet.**

- 7. To increase advertising of the D.H. Lawrence digital experience to promote live tours to Groups.**
- 8. The Working Group notes that the current Council Offices require substantial work to resolve the current issues of disrepair and accessibility issues and at the earliest opportunity plans should be considered for the future of the Kimberley Depot Offices.**
- 9. To ensure all fire risk assessments are up to date in residential accommodation.**
- 10. To ensure independent living schemes have automated doors to support living independently.**

Members of Cabinet on 3 September 2024 considered the report that was submitted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and stated that the recommendations were worthy of wider consideration. It was suggested that the Deputy Leader chair a working group to consider the recommendations. Furthermore, the remit would include contextual issues of items such as the future of Kimberley Depot, the adequacy of disabled facilities across the estate, including toilet provision, while ensuring that there was consultation with the unions.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The Deputy Leader chairs a working group to consider the recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in addition to subjects including the adequacy of toilet facilities in Council buildings, the future of Kimberley Depot and a selection of personnel issues.**
- 2. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to consider the topic of the Democratic Arrangements at the East Midlands Combined Counties Authority at a future meeting before reporting its findings to Cabinet.**

Reasons

1. The appointment of a working group will provide the flexibility necessary to undertake further review into the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. To enable a review into the Democratic Arrangements at the East Midlands Combined Counties Authority.

Equality, Diversity and Accessibility in the Borough's Parks

The review was in accordance with the Council's Priorities for Leisure and Health, and Environment, with the objectives of developing a programme of investment for Broxtowe's parks and open spaces, including accessible facilities, litter bins, picnic tables, signage, and enhanced bike trails. Furthermore, by developing the implementation of a new public toilet strategy to renew and improve these facilities

and supporting the development of community support for people with mental health issues and for people living with dementia and their carers.

The Working Group met on 2 August 2024 after receiving information from the Head of Environment and Climate Change to assist the Group in relation to the specific points on the scoping report. The Group also met on 16 August 2024 to visit Rushcliffe Country Park.

The purpose of the review was to achieve the outcomes outlined in the scoping report. The review sought the following outcome:

- To develop recommendations to support improvements.
- To improve the overall Equality, Diversity and Inclusion within the Council including service users, Members and employees.



Figure 1 Accessible and Inclusive Swing



Figure 2 Accessible and Inclusive Roundabout

Cabinet considered the report that was submitted by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and thanked the Committee for the work it had undertaken during the review and in addition to the Officers who had assisted in compiling the report and resolved the following:

RESOLVED that the following be approved:

1. That all entrances to parks are audited, to allow wheelchair/mobility access where possible.
2. Where a play park is fenced around, to ensure the access gate for a wheelchair is close to any accessible/inclusive play equipment or to consider the surface for the travel to the equipment.
3. Where possible, that every play park in the Borough has access to a minimum of one piece of accessible/inclusive play equipment.
4. To introduce further sensory play panels to the parks with some possibly away from climbing frames in quiet areas.
5. When replacing play equipment that a double slide be provided instead of a single slide option.
6. Exploring options to provide sensory gardens in parks and, where appropriate, to provide a sensory experience for all users to touch, smell,

hear and see. To consider utilising parks already established with garden areas in the first instance.

7. To provide signage across all parks for users to establish areas of rewilding, butterfly and bee planting, sensory and park areas.
8. To consider the toilet options in large multi-use parks that are not near town centre facilities.
9. To consider accessibility/inclusive benches as standard across all parks in the Borough and investigate the triangular benches with back support as the standard park bench.
10. The results from the Parks Survey are made available to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Reason

This will assist the Council in meeting the aims of its Corporate Priorities.

Work has already commenced at Hetley Pearson Recreation Park from the recommendations presented to the Cabinet meeting with improvements to the flooring of the park, an accessible bench had been installed and travel to the play equipment had been considered from the pathway. The works had also meant that less use of glyphosate would be required due to the overlap of flooring against the park fencing. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee welcomes the Play Strategy later in the year that will include updates from the recommendations.



Resurfaced pathway for the travel to the swing



New play park surface and added weed prevention to reduce usage of glyphosate accessible.

Budget Scrutiny

Early budget Setting Review-November 2024

Members considered the early budget setting review 2025/26 and welcomed the early opportunity to scrutinise and input in the Council's annual budget setting process. The Assistant Director - Finance Services reported that there were several significant issues concerning local government finance, that would have a major impact upon the financial impact of inflation on pay and prices, uncertainty on the outcome of financial settlements from central government, and the delayed Fair Funding Review that intends to review the level of Business Rates retention. Members recommended that the lifeline payments be frozen in respect of the winter fuel payments being cut, consider removing the early payment option on Environment Enforcement, if garden waste collections were value for money if returning to collect missed bins, and to check if Environmental Health licence charges were fixed by policy or legislation.

In January 2025 there were two budget scrutiny meetings, 20 and 21 January 2025. Members considered proposals for business plans, detailed revenue budget estimates for 2024/25; capital programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27; and proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 in respect of the Council's priority areas. The Committee recommended to Cabinet to approve the Business Plans, the detailed revenue budget estimates for 2024/25, the Capital programme for 2024/25 to 2026/27 and fees and charges for 2024/25 for all business areas and they noted the Liberty Leisure business plans. Budget scrutiny allows the Committee to ask questions to anticipate potential challenges and build meaningful oversight.

Spotlight Reviews

Housing Repairs

Members were updated on the improvements to the Housing Repairs Service from the Head of Housing. The Committee received a comprehensive report on how the service has been improved since the review. The report in 2022 provided key finding including: the number of employees in Housing Repairs not being sufficient to meet the needs of the service, the involvement of two teams in the repairs booking process was one of the main reasons for increased tenant dissatisfaction and inefficiency, there was a need for a more senior role with responsibility for compliance matters and that the structure would benefit from a number of specialist roles instead of a generic role under the Senior Maintenance Officer. Since 2022 there had been two restructures, the first restructure to support the Housing repairs calls and the second was to build on the compliance and repair inspectors along with operatives to cover the skills gaps required. Further roles had been created including Voids Surveyor, Disrepair Inspector and Assistant, and Change Delivery Manager.

Members queried how long void properties were vacant for and the reason for the target being missed was due to new software being implemented. It was hopeful, going forward, the target would be met with both general needs and Independent Living. It was confirmed to Members that the historic backlog of housing repairs had been cleared and some of the repair issues was due to data in the system being incorrect.

This information has now been data cleansed and that 71% of tenants were pleased with the repairs carried out including positive feedback received to the operatives.

A verbal update and presentation were presented to the Committee on 27 February 2025. This concluded the review for Housing Repairs. Members were pleased with the actions and encouraged by the results and positive work that had been carried out.

Markets

The Committee noted the update provided on the Spotlight Review on Markets and welcomed a further update and presentation at its November meeting. Members discussed the issues they found with markets and the impacts of town centres locations; stall holders already committed to other markets and challenges the town centres were facing with footfall. Benefits of holding one off events and street food events were recognised as alternatives to regular weekly markets. The Committee requested a further update in six months.

Work Programme

The Scrutiny Committee consider suggestions for scrutiny as part of the Work Programme that are also submitted to Cabinet at each meeting. The criteria to consider new topics by the Committee are listed below:

- Issues identified by Members as a key issue for the public
- Issue has a significant local impact
- Significant public dissatisfaction (e.g. through complaints)
- Issue raised by auditors
- New government guidance/legislation
- New evidence provided by external organisation
- Poor performance (e.g. evidence from performance indicators)
- High level budgetary commitment
- Pattern of budgetary overspending.

The Work Programme for the next meetings are as follows:

26 June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gamcare Licensing Report• Annual Report for Scrutiny
25 September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spotlight Review Equality, Inclusivity and Diversity at the Council• Spotlight Review D.H. Lawrence Museum• Spotlight Review Markets

1. **Topics Agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

	Topic	Topic suggested by	Link to corporate priorities/values
1.	Child Poverty	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Support people to live well, A good quality home for everyone
2.	Budget Consultation	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	All Corporate Priorities
3.	Building Control	Councillor B C Carr agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to put it on hold. Awaiting the outcome of a report to Cabinet.	A good quality home for everyone
4.	Diversity and Inclusion at the Council	Councillor S Dannheimer agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Invest in our towns and our people, Support people to live well, Protect the environment for the future, and a good quality home for everyone
5.	Council Agendas	Councillor T Marsh	Protect the environment for the future
6.	Environment Enforcement Fines	Cabinet	Protect the environment for the future
7.	GamCare Licensing	Licensing Committee Chair Councillor R Bullock	Invest in our towns and our people, Support people to live well.

2. Spotlight Reviews

3.	D. H. Lawrence Museum	Six Month Review	September 2025	Invest in our towns and our people
4.	Equality Diversity and Inclusion at the Council (Report to Cabinet 3 September 2024)	Six-Month Review	September 2025	Invest in our towns and our people, Support people to live well, Protect the environment for the future, and a good quality home for everyone

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Scrutiny Suggestion Form

Through Overview and Scrutiny, the Council is keen to investigate issues that are important to the people of Broxtowe. If you have an issue that you feel Overview and Scrutiny should look at as part of its work, please complete the form below.

You will receive correspondence from the Democratic Services Manager letting you know what will happen next. It is important to note, however, that Overview and Scrutiny is not for dealing with individual problems and complaints.

All requests will be fully considered and a decision will be made on what would be the most appropriate way forward. In some cases, this may be to forward the issue to the Service Director or the Ward Councillor for action. There is no guarantee; therefore, that the Scrutiny Committee will take up all requests, although you will receive an explanation of what action has been taken.

First name

Councillor Andrew

Surname

Cooper

Address

Postcode

Telephone number

Email

Andy.Cooper@broxtowe.gov.uk

Can we contact you about your ideas, comments and suggestions? Yes

Would you like us to forward this form to relevant organisations? Yes

What do you want the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look at?

Health and Safety Issues relating to overgrown trees on Council property threatening damage to private property.

What outcomes do you expect?

Recruitment of Tree Officer and urgent assessment of risk.

Please return this form to Democratic Services, Broxtowe Borough Council, Council Offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1AB or email to committees@broxtowe.gov.uk

For office use only – Date received: 22 May 2025

Scrutiny Support:

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Scrutiny Suggestion Form

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First name

Councillor Andrew

Surname

Cooper

Address

Postcode

Telephone number

Email

Andy.Cooper@broxtowe.gov.uk

Can we contact you about your ideas, comments and suggestions? Yes

Would you like us to forward this form to relevant organisations? Yes

What do you want the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to look at?

Problems for weeks with issues with ICT services. Councillors unable to access emails.

What outcomes do you expect?

Investigation and Reasons.

Please return this form to Democratic Services, Broxtowe Borough Council, Council Offices, Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1AB or email to committees@broxtowe.gov.uk

For office use only – Date received: 22 May 2025

Scrutiny Support:

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Report of the Leader of the Council

Cabinet Work Programme

1. Purpose of Report

Cabinet is asked to approve its Work Programme, including potential key decisions that will help to achieve the Council’s key priorities and associated objectives.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the Work Programme, including key decisions, be approved.

3. Detail

The Work Programme for future meetings is set out below. Key decisions and exempt items are marked with *.

1 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaints Report Q1 • Grants to Voluntary and Community organisations • Blue/Green Infrastructure * • Alterations and Improvements Policy * • Garage Policy * • Commercial Strategy * • Sexual Harassment Policy • Asset Management Strategy * • House Building Delivery Plan * • Climate Change Update Carbon Management Plans * • Green Rewards Review and Resident Engagement * • Reduction of Carbon in New Development Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) *
29 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of Accounts Update and Outturn Position 2024/25 • Treasury Management Annual Report 2024/25 • Annual Air Quality Status Report and Action Plan * • Menopause in the Workplace (LJCC) • Safeguarding Children’s Policy 2025 * • Safeguarding Adults Policy 2025 * • Slavery Statement * • Empty Homes Strategy 2025-2030 * • Contaminated Land Strategy 2025-2030 * • Annual Food Safety Service Plan 2025/26 * • Trade Waste Review

4. Key Decisions

This is not key decision.

5. Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications.

6. Legal Implications

The terms of reference are set out in the Council's constitution. It is good practice to include a work programme to help the Council manage the portfolios.

7. Human Resources Implications

There are HR implications purely from the point of view of clarifying roles and responsibilities of Council Officers and responsibilities of partner agencies.

8. Union Comments

There were no comments received

9. Climate Change Implications

There were no comments received.

10. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information. There are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

11. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no Equality Impact Assessment issues.

12. Background Papers

Nil

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Scrutiny Work Programme

1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to request that Members aware of matters proposed for and undergoing scrutiny. This is in accordance with all the Council's priorities.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the report and RESOLVE to agree subjects to be considered for review including those submitted as suggestions for Scrutiny.

3. Detail

Details of the reviews currently suggested on the work programme are within the **Appendix**.

Members may wish to consider new topics using the criteria below for their current programme:

- Issues identified by Members as a key issue for the public
- Issue has a significant local impact
- Significant public dissatisfaction (e.g. through complaints)
- Issue raised by auditors
- New government guidance/legislation
- New evidence provided by external organisation
- Poor performance (e.g. evidence from performance indicators)
- High level budgetary commitment
- Pattern of budgetary overspending.

The work programme for the next meetings are as follows:

25 September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spotlight Review Equality, Inclusivity and Diversity at the Council • Spotlight Review Markets • Spotlight Review D.H. Lawrence Museum
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4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal were as follows:

The terms of reference are set out in the Council's constitution. It is good practice to include a work programme to help the Council manage the portfolios.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable

7. Union Comments

Not applicable

8. Climate Change Implications

This report does not contain any climate change implications.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information. There are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no Equality Impact Assessment issues.

10. Background Papers

Nil

1. Topics Agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

	Topic	Topic suggested by	Link to corporate priorities/values
1.	Child Poverty	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Support people to live well, A good quality home for everyone
2.	Budget Consultation	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	All Corporate Priorities
3.	Building Control	Councillor B C Carr agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to put on hold. Awaiting the outcome of a report to Cabinet.	A good quality home for everyone
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5.	Council Agendas	Councillor T Marsh	Protect the environment for the future
6.	Environment Enforcement Fines	Cabinet	Protect the environment for the future
7.	GamCare Licensing	Licensing Committee Chair Councillor R Bullock	Invest in our towns and our people, Support people to live well.

2. Spotlight Reviews

2.	Markets	Six Month Review	September 2025	Invest in our towns and our people
3.	D. H Lawrence Museum	Six Month Review	September 2025	Invest in our towns and our people
4.	Equality Diversity and Inclusion at the Council (Report to Cabinet 3 September 2024)	Six Month Review	September 2025	Invest in our towns and our people, Support people to live well, Protect the environment for the future, and a good quality home for everyone