

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (BMBC)

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan.

**Report of the Director of Human Resources,
Performance and Communications**

PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2016/17 MUNICIPAL YEAR

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To outline the proposed work programme for 2016/17 for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and its 3 Task and Finish Groups (TFGs).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Cabinet approves the proposed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2016/17 as outlined in section 5 of this report, whilst acknowledging that this is subject to change should any urgent issues arise.**
- 2.2 **That Cabinet approves the trial use of 'Expert Participants' during the 2016/17 Municipal Year as outlined in section 5 of this report, to assist with Scrutiny investigations.**
- 2.3 **That the Chair of the OSC be authorised to identify and invite appropriate 'Expert Participants' on a topic by topic basis.**

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Scrutiny was introduced in the Local Government Act 2000 (following the abolition of the old committee structure) as a means to hold the new council cabinets to account for its decisions. Since then, subsequent acts of parliament have bolstered Scrutiny by extending its remit (and its statutory responsibilities) beyond the council to the work of partner organisations as well. Much of this legislation was consolidated in the Localism Act 2011. This includes Overview and Scrutiny having a specific role in exercising the Authority's powers in relation to the scrutiny of health services and the crime and disorder partnership in the Borough.
- 3.2 In the current climate, the need for sound effective decision making has never been more important. Elected members who sit on Barnsley's scrutiny committees have a vital role to play as 'scrutineers', providing a valid mechanism of challenge to monitor decision making, tackle poor performance and to ensure value for money is delivered.
- 3.3 Barnsley Council's Scrutiny arrangements incorporate an OSC which has subsumed the work of the Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee (SSC) (Cab.15.6.2016/14), subject to further review; as well as 3 Member-led TFGs which carry out in-depth investigations. The OSC and its TFGs are responsible for not only holding the Council to account but also for scrutinising the performance of both

the Council and its partners and whether they are delivering the intended outcomes or not.

- 3.4 Area Councils have also had an increasing performance monitoring role. This has been done through performance monitoring the services and contracts that are commissioned by the Area Councils and also to, where appropriate, performance monitor area based and borough wide services provided locally. Area Councils can undertake local investigations and invite internal and external services to discuss any concerns. The Area Councils can also feed any areas of concern and recommendations to the OSC and its TFGs.

4. Consideration of alternative approaches

- 4.1 The topics proposed in section 5 of this report are a reflection of input into the work programme from a variety of sources and stakeholders to identify the key issues requiring scrutiny during the 2016/17 municipal year. It is important to note however that the programme is draft and may be updated on an ongoing basis.

5. Proposal and justification

- 5.1 It is important that the Scrutiny work programme is developed to ensure effective scrutiny of local services to help improve outcomes for our communities. Forward planning is undertaken to identify key issues which require scrutiny during each municipal year, as well as allowing for the work programme to be reactive and evolve should issues require scrutiny at short-notice; hence leaving space for topics still to be agreed (TBA). Therefore it is important to note that the proposals below remain subject to change and each suggested investigation will need to be scoped in more detail.

- 5.2 The table below shows the proposed work programme for the OSC:

Meeting Date	Topics
2016/17 Municipal Year	
Tues 7th June 2016	1. Barnsley GP Services 2. Scrutiny Work Programme 2016-17
Tues 12 th July 2016 (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Adult Social Care Target Operating Model (TOM)
Tues 19 th July 2016	1. Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2. Q4 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2015/16 – Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order 3. Draft Community Safety Plan 2016-2020
Tues 13 th September 2016 (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2015-16
Tues 4 th October 2016	1. NHS Sustainability & Transformation Plan (STP) 2. Q1 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2016/17 3. Update on the implementation of the Customer Services Strategy 2015-18
Tues 8 th November 2016 (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2015-16
Tues 6 th December 2016	1. Educational achievement across the Borough as well as a specific report on Looked After Children 2. Q2 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2016/17

Tues 17 th January 2017 (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Support to families in Barnsley including the Troubled Families Programme and changes from Children's to Family Centres 2. Update on the 0-19 Service
Tues 7 th February 2017	1. Update on the Devolution Deal 2. Review of Area Council Arrangements
Tues 14 th March 2017 (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Update regarding licensing training and safeguarding 2. TBA
Tues 4 th April 2017	1. Q3 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2016/17 2. TBA
Tues 5 th May 2017 (safeguarding topic focus)	1. CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) (12 months on)
2017/18 Municipal Year	
Tues 6 th June 2017	1. Q4 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2016/17- Future Council Strategy Progress 2. Scrutiny Work Programme 2017-18

5.3 The table below shows the proposed topics for the TFGs:

TFG	Topics
TFG 1	Higher Level Skills and Jobs
TFG 2	Fly Tipping
TFG 3	Flooding Resilience

5.4 To assist the OSC and its TFGs with their investigations, it is also proposed that on occasion 'Expert Participants' will be invited to meetings to be able to both advise Members as well as ask questions of their own to witnesses in relation to topics where they have particular expertise, either by profession or service user experience. The 'Expert Participants' will have the right to speak at meetings but will not have the right to vote. It is proposed that this is trialled for the 2016/17 Municipal Year and will assist in ensuring thorough challenge of services is undertaken. For example, Foster Carers will be invited to attend meetings where topics have particular relevance to our Looked After Children, such as Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

6. Implications for local people / service users

6.1 By undertaking scrutiny of the topics in the work programme, this will contribute to the continued improvement of services for local people / service users.

7. Financial implications

7.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report, however recommendations could be made by the OSC/TFGs as part of their investigations which would require assessment of financial implications by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or partnership agencies.

8. Employee implications

8.1 There are no specific employee implications arising from this report, however recommendations could be made by the OSC/TFGs as part of their investigations

which would require assessment of employee implications by the appropriate services responding which may be the Council or partnership agencies.

9. Communications implications

- 9.1 It is noted that the work of Scrutiny keeps under review the performance of the Council and other relevant organisations in providing services to Barnsley communities. Proactive communication about these services and activities takes place on a regular, planned basis as part of the communication strategy for each directorate of the Council and on occasion will be requested to be undertaken by other relevant organisations.

10. Consultations

- 10.1 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Jeff Ennis OSC Chair, Members of the OSC, The Leader of the Council and the Council's Senior Management Team.

11. The Corporate Plan and the Council's Performance Management Framework

- 11.1 The work of Scrutiny contributes to the achievement of and improvement in services in relation to a number of outcomes identified in the Council's Corporate Plan Performance Report. The OSC work programme is scheduled around the quarterly performance reports which enable the Scrutiny work programme to be reactive to issues requiring consideration.

12. Tackling health inequalities

- 12.1 Tackling health inequalities and ensuring the wellbeing and safeguarding of our adults and children continues to be a priority for the Council and its partners. The work of Scrutiny contributes to this work in highlighting issues and ensuring appropriate plans are in place to address them.

13. Risk management and health and safety issues

- 13.1 The Council's Scrutiny arrangements form an important part of the overall governance and internal control framework. The appetite of the Council to have meaningful and constructive scrutiny of its decisions makes a significant contribution to the transparency and accountability of Council activities.
- 13.2 The development of an agreed work-programme provides a great deal of focus and control to risks currently logged in the risk register for Business Unit 15, such as risk 3450 ('Failure to advise, support and coordinate the statutory Scrutiny functions for the Council').
- 13.3 Furthermore, an effective Scrutiny function provides a great deal of control when considering other risks within the Council's risk profile. This will be considered further as officers are asked to update their own service and operational risks as part of the established Risk Management framework.
- 13.4 The flexibility built into the work programme (see section 11) provides a robust mitigation in the event of new or emerging issues requiring Scrutiny attention during 2016/17.

14. Promoting equality, diversity, and social inclusion

- 14.1 The Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to pay due regard to the impact of their services, policies, functions and decisions on diverse groups (called “people with protected characteristics” in the Act). For Scrutiny this means ensuring that as part of their investigations they consider how the services or policies affect people from these groups, and ideally ensuring that people with direct experience have an opportunity to have their voices heard. Scrutiny should also seek to understand what steps services have taken to proactively assess the likely equality impact of their service design and delivery and how they have sought to monitor the actual impact once implemented. Each item of the work programme 2016/17 will therefore be assessed for potential equality impact and key lines of enquiry proposed.
- 14.2 By using ‘Expert Participants’ (see paragraph 5.4) the committee will be able to utilise a range of representatives to ensure appropriate challenge to services which will include those from minority groups. This work will require the engagement of the Equality and Inclusion Team and will be coordinated with the Network of Equality Forums, as well as exploring the options for other expert participants from within the community, when appropriate.

15. Reduction of crime and disorder

- 15.1 As part of Scrutiny’s role in performance management and service improvement, work is specifically undertaken in relation to the reduction of crime and disorder through the consideration of particular services and work with partners. During 2016/17, it is proposed that the OSC will consider the Town Centre Public Space Protection Order as well as the Draft Community Safety Plan 2016-2020.

16. Glossary

OSC – Overview and Scrutiny Committee
SSC – Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee
TFGs – Task and Finish Groups

17. Background papers

- Council’s Forward Plan of Key Decisions 27th May 2016:
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=130&LLL=0>
- Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7th June 2016 regarding the Work Programme for 2016/17:
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s10343/OSC%20Work%20Programme%20for%202016-17.pdf>
- Safeguarding Scrutiny Committee – Review of Arrangements Cabinet Report 15th June 2016:
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s10571/Safeguarding%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20-%20Review%20of%20Arrangements.pdf>

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