

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 Executive Director Core Services

PROPOSED SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE 2018/19 MUNICIPAL YEAR

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To outline the proposed work programme for 2018/19 for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and its 3 Task and Finish Groups (TFGs).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That Cabinet note the proposed Scrutiny Work Programme for 2018/19 as outlined in section 5 of this report, whilst acknowledging that this is subject to change should any urgent issues arise.**

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 performance, monitoring decision making and to ensure value for money is delivered.
- 3.3 Barnsley Council's Scrutiny arrangements incorporate an OSC which continues to maintain a specific safeguarding workstream; 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. 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. The OSC Chair meets with the Area Council Chairs periodically to liaise regarding topics on the OSC work programme and ensure any relevant concerns are raised.

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 2018/19 municipal year, including a specific workshop for OSC Members. It is important to note however that the programme 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. 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 Given that all Elected Members have a responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in Barnsley communities, including their specific role as Corporate Parents to Looked After Children; the Chair has written to all non-Cabinet Members to invite them to the OSC meeting on 11th September 2018. At this meeting, the OSC will consider both the Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB) and Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB) Annual Reports from 2017/18. This will provide both OSC and non-OSC members an opportunity to provide a 'critical friend' challenge to those organisations who lead on this work in Barnsley communities.
- 5.3 The table below shows the proposed work programme for the OSC:

Meeting Date	Topics
2018/19 Municipal Year	
Tues 5 th June 2018 1pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waste Services Review – (Q4 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2017/18) 2. Scrutiny Work Programme 2018-19
Tues 19 th June 2018 2pm (safeguarding topic focus)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children's Social Care - ILACS Self-Assessment 2. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care
Tues 10 th July 2018 2pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Norfolk Property Services (NPS) Barnsley Review
Tues 11 th Sept 2018 1pm (safeguarding topic focus) All (non-Cabinet) Member Scrutiny	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2017-18 2. Barnsley Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2017-18 3. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care
Tues 9 th Oct 2018 2pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Highways Services Review 2. ? Q1 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2018/19
Tues 30 th Oct 2018 2pm (safeguarding topic focus)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) (12 months on) 2. Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2017-18 3. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care

Tues 27 th Nov 2018 2pm	1. Provisional Education Outcomes across the Borough 2018 including vulnerable groups 2. ? Q2 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2018/19
Tues 8 th Jan 2019 2pm (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Neglect Strategy Progress (launched July 17) 2. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care
Tues 29 th Jan 2019 2pm	1. Integrated/Accountable Care System Progress
Tues 26 th Feb 2019 2pm (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Domestic Abuse Services 2. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care
Tues 26 th March 2019 2pm	1. Flooding Strategy (Cabinet Nov17) 16 months on (including implementation of recommendations from the OSC TFG in 2016/17) 2. ? Q3 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2018/19 3. Scrutiny TFG Reports 2018/19 – for information
Tues 30 th April 2019 2pm (safeguarding topic focus)	1. Adult Social Care Local Account 2017/18 2. Private Member Briefing - Children's Social Care
2019/20 Municipal Year	
Tues 28 th May 2019 2pm	1. ? Q4 Corporate Plan Performance Report 2018/19 2. Scrutiny Work Programme 2019-20

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

TFG	Topics
TFG 1	Adult Mental Health Services
TFG 2	Substance Misuse
TFG 3	Social Housing

5.5 To advise the OSC and its TFGs with their investigations, as per Cabinet agreement (Cab.27.7.16/6), on occasion 'Expert Participants' have been invited to contribute to meetings. This is 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 committee therefore plans to continue this practice as appropriate on an ongoing basis.

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. In addition, the Communications Team promotes publication of the papers and attendance at the meeting via social media channels.

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 2018/19.

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 2018/19 will therefore be assessed for potential equality impact and key lines of enquiry proposed.
- 14.2 By using ‘Expert Participants’ (see paragraph 5.5) 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 2018/19, it is proposed that the OSC will specifically consider community safety services both as part of their investigation into Domestic Abuse as well as Substance Misuse.

16. Background papers

- Council’s Forward Plan of Key Decisions 25th May 2018:
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=162&RP=135>
- Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Safeguarding Workstream Cabinet Report 15th May 2017:
<http://barnsleymbc.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s19783/Review%20of%20the%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committee%20Safeguarding%20Workstream.pdf>

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