

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JULY 2017

Present: Councillors Webb (Chair), Howard (Vice-Chair), Bacon, Charman, Rankin, Turner, Cartwright and Davies

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Cooke, Atkins and Dowling

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following councillors declared an interest in the minutes:

Councillor	Minute	Interest
Charman	2 – Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18	Personal – she is a member of East Sussex County Council
Webb	2 – Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18	Personal – he is a member of East Sussex County Council

2. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2017-18

The Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Manager updated the committee on progress with the 2016/17 overview and scrutiny work programme. An update on green initiatives would now be scheduled for autumn 2017, as part of a broader piece of work on income generation. An update item on block chain technologies and the implications of this for local authorities had been postponed as the use of this technology is still in its infancy. Members had completed all of the remaining pieces of work they had identified as a priority for their 2016/17 work programme.

Members had also undertaken a review of the council's scrutiny function, following a move to a single overview and scrutiny committee in May 2016. The review had recommended exploring ways to make the best use of member and officer capacity. As part of their work programme for 2017/18, members will pilot the use of inquiry days to examine a topic in detail.

The committee considered prospective ideas for the 2017/18 work programme. Scrutiny Steering Group had met recently to prioritise the ideas received. Income Generation, Education and Regeneration and Housing had been identified as priority review areas. Members were invited to volunteer to join these groups by email. An initial meeting of each of the reviews would then be scheduled to scope out key lines of inquiry and areas for consideration and identify potential stakeholders and interest parties. Members noted that the review of Regeneration and Housing could include an inquiry day on the subject of homelessness.

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Members were keen to retain capacity within this year's work programme to participate in a cross-committee working group, after an all member briefing has taken place on the local implications of the Grenfell tragedy.

The Post Office is currently undertaking a public consultation on the future arrangements for the St Leonards Crown Post Office. Overview and scrutiny members have a longstanding interest in this matter and may wish to draft a collective response to the consultation.

RESOLVED that the committee agree the key lines of inquiry proposed for the scrutiny work programme for the 2017/18 municipal year

The reason for this decision was:

It is the responsibility of members serving on the overview and scrutiny committee to set their own work programme for each municipal year at the annual meeting., whilst taking into account the advice of officers.

3. **INVITATION TO LEAD MEMBERS 2017/18**

The Chair proposed that lead members be invited to attend overview and scrutiny committee meetings in 2017/18.

RESOLVED that lead members be invited to attend overview and scrutiny committee meetings in 2017/18

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 7.05 pm)