

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Thursday, 27 July 2023 at 6.00 pm

Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY. Please enter the building through the Contact Centre entrance via the seafront.

If you are attending the Town Hall for this meeting, please enter the building via the Community Contact Centre entrance.

For further information, please contact Democratic Services on 01424 451484 or email: democraticservices@hastings.gov.uk

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Agenda Item 3 Public Document Pack

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 JULY 2023

Present: Councillors Patmore (Chair), Sinden (Vice-Chair), Bacon, Carr, Cooke, Foster, Hay, Hilton and Webb

Officers: Coral Harding, Victoria Conheady, Kit Wheeler, Stephen Dodson, Amy Terry, Cameron Morley, Natasha Tewkesbury, Mary Kilner, Simon Jones

Members of Cabinet Present: Councillor Batsford, Evans, Roark and Rogers

140. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Roberts and Turner

141. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Item	Interest
Cllr Webb	4,5,6	Personal – ESCC Councillor
Cllr Hay	4,5,6	Personal – ESCC Councillor
Cllr Hilton	4,5,6	Personal – ESCC Councillor

142. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 29/03/23

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2023 be approved as a true record.

143. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME (2022/23) UPDATE

The Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer updated the report is for quarter 4 2022/23. The Recommendations haven't been finalised and can be put in a report at the annual meeting later this month. They can then be forwarded to the Cabinet Portfolio holders. Some areas were not completed this included meeting Seachange and a constitutional change asking for a 6 monthly report to Full Council on Motions. Going forward the Equalities working group will continue and the committee will continue their work on financial monitoring and the asset management review.

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The Chair thanked Councillors Carr, Hay and Pragnell for the Finance Review and thanks were given to Councillors Carr and Arthur for their work on equalities work program. Thanks was given to Councillor Jobson for her work on living environment.

The Committee discussed to ask Southern Water to attend a meeting with Overview and Scrutiny. Councillor Batsford updated that he has had contact with Southern Water and will pass the details to the Chair

Resolved (Unanimously)

That the committee note the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the 2022/23 municipal year and follow up actions.

That the committee would like to give their thanks to previous committee members, Cabinet and Officers for their contributions and support with the work programme.

Reasons

It is the responsibility of members serving on the Overview and Scrutiny committee to set their own work programme for each municipal year and complete the associated actions by the end of year.

Overview and Scrutiny committee appreciates the support it receives within the organisation. The committee recognises that working together produces a better outcome for the council and the public.

144. PERFORMANCE MONITORING QUARTER 4 2022/23 AND UPDATE ON Q1 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Chair explained this is to review January to April and gave thanks that moving forward the time between the data being collated and reviewed will be shorter and that Q1 for 23/24 will be available at the August meeting.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team and Lead Councillors were present to answer questions. The committee asked questions:

Q: How will the Portfolio holders scrutinise their budgets this year?

Cllr Batsford answered that there are regular meetings line managers and with the senior leadership team. There are also monthly monitoring reports coming to Cabinet. The committee requested a break down of what budget falls under which Portfolio. Cllr Rogers answered this work has already started and reviewing how and where climate change fits within their portfolios.

Q: Can the Climate Change Targets be improved?

Cllr Evans answered I have just taken on this portfolio and will be reviewing. However all Service Areas now have a Climate Change KPI and will be reporting from Q2 on how they are responding to the Climate Change Action Plan. The committee asked for

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what reason all targets are now amber in quarter 4. The Deputy Chief executive explained that the Climate Change Manager had left and work had to be paused.

Q: Since the close of the Tourist information centre what provisions are in place for this summer?

Cllr Batsford answered a few sites have been reviewed to provide a comprehensive service to tourists this summer.

The Committee asked if this too late for this summer. Councillor Batsford confirmed it would be better if the tourist information centre was already open. There is a workshop in October with all the attractions in Hastings coming together to look at 2024 tourism marketing campaign.

Q: Is Carbon neutrality by 2030 a manageable target?

Cllr Evans answered that the Government's target is 2050 and Hastings is reliant on government interventions this will be a major challenge and as retro fitting homes is the biggest challenge the target for carbon neutrality across Hastings will probably not be met. However, the council may be able to meet aspects of carbon neutrality by 2030 and work starting to change the waste collection fleet are being changed to HVO.

Q: How many people presented as homeless? Out of these people how many were prevented from becoming homeless?

The Deputy Chief Executive explained in quarter 4 of the last financial year, 118 households presented at threat of homelessness, 39 households prevented from becoming homeless, 145 household presented as homeless and 37 households relieved from becoming homeless. The Interim Head of Housing has offered to come and do a Q&A session for O&S.

Q: Does the Strategic Housing KPI need changing to meet 500 homes by 2027?

The Deputy Chief Executive explained Affordable housing target has been 75 homes per year for several years and that we have only hit that target once in the last five years. Whilst we are aspiring to reach our 500 Affordable Homes target, homes won't be developed out evenly across years and we are aware that some homes that were forecast to be delivered in this financial year will be delayed.

Q: Can affordable housing be ensured on Harrow Lane playing fields

Cllr Batsford answered that he is confident there will be. Orbit are the owners of the land and are one of Homes England's chosen organizations to deliver the affordable housing targets for the whole country.

Q: Only 1 FPN has been issued. What are the reasons for this? Why is the target amber?

Cllr Rogers answered that FPN's are not issued for anti-social behaviour as prosecutions are used. The Dog PSPO had run out and no FPN's have been able to

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be issued. The new dog PSPO is in place. The Committee asked for the public FPN description to be reviewed. The Head of Community and Regulatory Services stated the target should be red for quarter 4 but the target has been reviewed for the coming year.

Q: Will that the White Rock Theatre will run without subsidies?

Cllr Batsford answered he is confident in the future of the White Rock Theatre. It is being marketed for lease now. There are bookings now going past February 2024 working in conjunction with the current operator, which will be novated across to the successful future tenant.

Q: Why has audit got all red indicators?

The Chief Finance Officer explained that due to staffing levels targets were not being met. At the next Audit Committee, the new Internal Auditors will set out their plan for the year with the intention to meet the kpi's for the year. The Chair highlighted that Overview and Scrutiny and Audit can work together with the Chair and Vice chair of Audit being on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Committee requested a meeting to review the key performance indicators. The Head of Strategic Programmes suggested adding this as an agenda item at the next meetings.

Q: Is the new ChurchFields Business Centre in use?

The Deputy Chief Executive answered that the Centre opened in April and 12 of the 29 units are full.

Resolved (Unanimously)

- 1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review performance for Quarter 4 2022/23**
- 2. To note that the report provides performance information one quarter behind actual quarters.**
- 3. That O&S are content with the agreed Q1 and ongoing quarters PI's for 23/24, subject to review at the following O&S meeting.**
- 4. That staff be thanked for their hard work and achievements to date.**

Reasons

1. To assist the council to undertake performance and financial monitoring arrangements.
2. To ensure that senior management, officers, and Portfolio Holders (Lead Cllrs) have ownership of performance of the service areas under their responsibility.
3. That O&S and the public can review performance and highlight both achievements and areas of concern.

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4. That due to committee cycles the data provided to O&S is for Q4 but Q4 has been completed therefore some data may not represent the up-to-date information on performance.
5. That O&S are sighted on and agree performance indicators for Q1 and ongoing quarters for 23/24.

145. FINANCIAL MONITORING OUTTURN REPORT FOR 2022/23 - TO END OF MARCH 2023 (PERIOD 12)

The Deputy Chief Finance Officer introduced the report. The budget for total expenditure was 16.85 million and the draft outturn is 18.14 million, leading to a 1.29 million overspend. The largest area of overspend is homelessness, where an overspend of £2.384m is reported. This is due to the rising cost of temporary housing coupled with the increase in the number of clients presented as homeless. It is hoped the Housing and Homelessness task force will be able to reduce this over the next year. Revenues and benefits service was overspent by £264,000 due to a delay in the planned restructure of the service, leading to an increase in the use of expensive agency staff. Housing benefit payments overspend of £454,000 which is due to lower than budgeted income from the housing benefits overpayment recoveries. Dangerous Structures overspend of £407,000 was for safety work at Battle Rd. Debt repayment costs are under spent by £1,787,000, and that's due to a lower MRP charge, reduced borrowing and increased investment income. Total expenditure was therefore overspent by £1.289 million at the year end.

The Chief Finance Officer explained there is a new appendix included in each monthly report. If the savings actual achievement percentage of last year is met this year, there would be an impact of additional savings of £300k being required to be found in year to remain on line with current forecasts.

Questions were asked by the Committee:

Q: Will any of the savings continue into 2023-24?

The Chief Finance Officer explained that MRP saving will be seen into the new year.

Q: Is the asset management plan anymore ready than last year?

The Chief Finance Officer answered it has progressed. Consultants have had meetings with the Estates team and further meetings to be had this week with the Finance team.

Q: Why is there an underspend in Street Cleaning?

Cllr Roark explained that this had been discussed with the Head of Environment and Operations and the underspend was due to vacancies within the Street Cleaning team. Thanks were given to the team who continued the service through this time and the vacancies have now been mostly filled.

Q: Why is there an underspend on protection works for the reservoirs?

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The Head of Strategic Programmes explained there are still a few more works to be completed.

Q: Is there concerns with underspends in the Capital Budget?

The Chief Finance Officer explained that though understands are seen as a good thing these resources could have been used elsewhere within the council.

The Committee highlighted that the report states that if the temporary accommodation expenditure and budget cannot be controlled then a Section 114 notice would have to be issued. Councillor Evans explained an asset review is taking place.

Q: How many properties have been purchased in the housing acquisition programme?

The Deputy Chief Executive answered that 14 properties are under offer.

Q: Is there a conflict of interest having officers on the board of Hastings Housing Company?

The Chief Finance Officer explained that he is not on the board, so he represents the major shareholder which in this case is Hastings Borough Council and is responsible for holding the Directors to account. The council requires directors to sit on the board and plans will be brought forward to explain the future plans of the Housing Company by the directors, a lot of whom are new in their roles on the board.

Q: Are lack of interest payments not received a loss of income?

The Chief Finance Officer explained that the Hastings Housing Company was loaned money by the Council and are seen as a good payer. The Hastings Housing Company has not met all their payments and are behind. There have been several discussions between the housing company directors and the managing agent in terms of sorting out a repayment plan.

Resolved (Unanimously)

To note the contents of the report, and the actions within the conclusion and management action section.

Reasons

To assist the Council in understanding the outturn financial position for the year end and particularly areas of over and under spend. The outturn position for 2022/23 can be used to inform budget monitoring for the 2023/24 financial year.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 7.41 pm)

Agenda Item 4



Report To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: Thursday, 27 July 2023

Report Title: Overview and Scrutiny (O & S) Committee proposed Work Programme for the 2023-24 municipal year

Report By: Coral Harding, Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer

Key Decision: N/A

Purpose of Report

To summarise ideas received for the 2023/24 Overview and Scrutiny work programme and to propose the next steps for progressing these.

Recommendation(s)

That the Annual Meeting reach agreement on their key lines of inquiry for the Overview and Scrutiny work programme for the 2023/24 municipal year

Reasons for Recommendations

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.

Introduction

1. Following Annual Council in May 2023, a new Overview and Scrutiny committee was appointed. The committee consists of eleven members (in total) and is a mixture of new and returning committee members including the Chair and Vice Chair.
2. The new committee to date has met to receive basis training and informally to discuss this year's work programme based on the committee's ideas and data from the organisation.
3. These ideas and themes draw on previous Overview and Scrutiny work. The committee have grouped work into themes to help retain the flexibility needed given the ongoing challenges the town and council continue to face.

Proposed Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2023/24

4. The committee has decided to pursue 4 themes this year; Finance, Equalities, Living Environment and Follow up 2022
5. They have identified several reviews within each theme to begin with and hope to explore other areas identified within the municipal year.
6. The work programme will use a combination of reviews and updates. They will also use the information provided at the quarterly review meetings to help with their enquires.
7. Appendix A sets out the proposed O&S work programme for the year ahead breaking down the proposed phases of each theme over the course of the year.
8. The bulk of the investigative work will be done through Quarter 2 and 3. Any recommendations from this work will be reported in Quarter 4. These recommendations will go to Cabinet or Full Council depending on relevance.

Finance Theme

9. The Overview and Scrutiny committee are concerned by the large deficit the council faces this year which is currently estimated at £2.1 million. This is a challenging position for the council that has the potential to affect all public services provided.
10. Overview and Scrutiny committee are keen to help support efforts to lessen the impact of the deficit and will continue with the quarterly financial monitoring activities.
11. The committee notes that the Finance Portfolio Holder and the Finance Officers are providing the quarterly finance reports much earlier than previous years and are thankful for this as the data is much more relevant to review.
12. They have identified some several areas of investigation and would like to review Performance Indicators (PI's) to help track the progress of financial activities.

Finance Peer Review meeting with Council Leadership

13. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are keen to commence the year by meeting the Council Leadership to discuss the Finance Peer Review.
14. The Finance Peer Review was conducted by an external team of experienced Councillors and Officers looking at the Councils financial processes and practices. The idea of the review

is that the 'peers' provide challenge and recommend changes based on their shared learning.

15. The Leader and other Cabinet portfolio holders will be invited to a meeting to discuss the Finance Peer Reviews recommendations and proposed actions.
16. The Overview and Scrutiny committee are keen to build a strong working relationship within this financially challenging environment and are keen to help the Leader and Portfolio Holders in achieving a positive outcome.

Costs of homelessness

17. The latest financial monitoring report advised that costs homelessness are currently forecast as £5,097,669 with an overspend of £2,384,669. These costs have significant contributed to the council's financial deficit.
18. The Head of Housing has offered to brief the committee on the council's current situation. The committee welcomes this and will arrange a meeting with them soon.
19. The committee would like to receive updates on the following internal initiatives to reduce homelessness. These currently include the Housing and Homelessness task force, Hastings Housing Company and the impact of current housing strategies.
20. They would also like to gain feedback from external organisations in the borough that help the public with their housing needs and the prevention of homelessness. The committee is proposing an addition meeting in October to gather and review the feedback.
21. The committee would also like to review Performance Indicators (PI's) and amend as appropriate to help them track this issue.

Asset Management review

22. The Asset Management review will identify all asset the council current holds. The committee recognise that the council may need to dispose of assets to help with the deficit. The committee would like to review what assets the council has and the criteria of identifying the prioritisation of these for disposal. They are keen to see disposals that are best value for the organisation and are in the public interest.

Tourism and Cultural Strategy

23. This year's budget agreed changes to the previous tourism strategies to focus on a Hastings-only marketing through savings gained by ceasing contributions to the 1066 Country campaign and the funding of the Visitor Information Centre.
24. Overview and Scrutiny would like to review how this new strategy will work within the council and how this will impact the town in terms of additional tourist income and employment in this sector within town.
25. They would like to review how the new Cultural strategy will feed into the tourism strategy and how much revenue this will help create for the town.

Management and staff restructuring

26. The council has recently gone through staff restructure that has created a new Senior Leadership Team. A 2nd phase is due to be implemented through service departments. The

committee would like to review the impact of these changes and the cost benefits this has created.

27. They would also like to see how budgets will be reviewed and monitored this year between Portfolio Holders, Senior Officers and departments in these new structures. They would like to see the how budget review timelines for the year will now operate.

Equalities theme

28. The committee recognises that local residents come from many different backgrounds and have many different needs. The Equalities theme will look at how the council monitors the levels of accessibility and considerations taken in providing public services for a diverse population.

Equalities Working Group

29. The Equalities Working Group was set up last municipal year and meet several times. The meetings were open to all Councillors and were well attended.
30. The committee proposes that the Equalities Working Group continues to meet. They have an outline of work that wish to continue;
- Development of equalities charter
 - Development of equalities PI's
 - Creation of surveys for internal and external use
 - Working with community groups
 - Review council services and identify any opportunities to remove barriers

Violence Against Women and Park Safety project

31. The previous year's Overview and Scrutiny work programme included a review piece on the work conducted within Alexandra Park to improve safety following a petition from residents because of an incident.
32. The park safety work was completed successfully which included opening sight lines, additional lightning and installing CCTV. The public feedback for this was generally positive.
33. Overview and Scrutiny would like to review the impact of these park safety works later this year.

Living Environment theme

34. Overview and Scrutiny recognise the need for a healthy living environment that is safe & clean, promotes healthy behaviours and is pleasant to live in.
35. Overview and Scrutiny believe in positively promoting a healthy living environment in the borough and actively support initiatives to reduce issues that can affect this such as pollution, climate change and cleanliness.

Climate Change Action group

36. Overview and Scrutiny would like to establish a Climate Change Action Group. The group aims to support and scrutinise the council's development and implementation of projects & policies to build climate resilience within the borough.

37. Overview and Scrutiny have identified that they would like the group to look at the following;
- Reviewing the Climate Change Delivery Plan and the creation of Performance Indicators (PIs) to help monitor activities
 - Reviewing key policies and strategies including Environment Procedure Policy and the Sustainable Procurement Policy

Fly tipping

38. Overview and Scrutiny would like to look at ways of reducing fly tipping incidences through which cause cost to the council and reduce the cleanliness of resident's environments. Councillors report a high level of public interest in this area.
39. They would like to review fly tipping reporting data from My Hastings to see if a ward by ward analysis can be made to locate more problematic areas and explore solutions in place to help resolve this.

National Changes to refuse and recycling collections

40. Overview and Scrutiny are concerned about the impact of the national changes to refuse and recycling collections. They would like an update on how the council will implement these changes.
41. Overview and Scrutiny would like to find out the cost to the council to implement this, loss of income from current waste schemes and how public consultation will impact the statutory changes.
42. Southern Water in resolving the situation and preventing its reoccurrence in the future.

Follow up theme

43. Overview and Scrutiny would like to follow up and complete actions from the previous work programme and agree actions at previous meetings.

Review of Performance Indicators

44. The committee have agreed would like to review the Performance Indicators (PI's) in line with the corporate plan, delivery plan and new staff restructuring.
45. They will prioritise looking at Finance and Housing PI's as previously agreed with the Head of Strategic Planning. They would also like to review the Climate Change PI's as part of their work programme.

Sea Change

46. Overview and Scrutiny would still like to review Sea Changes activities and achievements. There have been legal reasons they have not been able to explore this directly with Sea Change.
47. The committee have chosen to explore the review East Sussex County Councils Scrutiny have undertaken and see if there are opportunities for joined up working.

Southern Water

48. Overview and Scrutiny continue to be concerned by Southern Water's performance in the borough. The committee, businesses and residents are still concerned by the sewage spillages and floods that are having a high impact.
49. Overview and Scrutiny will be inviting Southern Water to discuss the future plans for the town and the resolution to the issues being currently experienced.

Next steps

50. The Overview and Scrutiny committee will need to agree their work programme and key lines of enquiry outlined in this report.
51. The committee needs to be mindful of the time and resources available to complete this programme in full prior to the next financial year.
52. The proposed work programme will need to retain some flexibility, adapting where appropriate to the demands on time and resource encountered throughout the year.
53. The scheduled quarterly performance monitoring meetings will provide the opportunity to check in with the Lead Councillors and Senior Leadership Team on service demand and associated performance via the Council's performance Dashboard & Financial performance and position via the Financial Monitoring reports.
54. It is suggested that the review groups leads are firmed up at this meeting in order to ensure the work programme can commence soon.

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Overview and Scrutiny to agree their work programme	Work programme agreed	27 th July	Overview and Scrutiny committee
Overview and Scrutiny to agree review groups leads	Review groups leads agreed	27 th July	Overview and Scrutiny committee

Wards Affected

None

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score:

Have you used relevant project tools?: N/A

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Y/N
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Y/N
Risk Management	Y/N
Environmental Issues & Climate Change	Y/N
Economic/Financial Implications	Y/N
Human Rights Act	Y/N
Organisational Consequences	Y/N
Local People's Views	Y/N
Anti-Poverty	Y/N
Legal	Y/N

Additional Information

Appendix A- Proposed Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

Officer to Contact

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Appendix A: Proposed Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

FINANCE	EQUALITIES	LIVING ENVIRONMENT	FOLLOW UP
<p align="center">FINANCE PEER REVIEW MEETING WITH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP</p> <p align="center">COSTS OF HOMELESSNESS</p> <p align="center">ASSET MANAGEMENT REVIEW</p> <p align="center">TOURISM AND CULTURAL STRATEGY</p> <p align="center">MANAGEMENT AND STAFF RESTRUCTURING</p>	<p align="center">EQUALITIES WORKING GROUP</p> <p align="center">REVIEW OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND PARK SAFETY PROJECT</p>	<p align="center">CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION GROUP</p> <p align="center">FLY TIPPING REVIEW</p> <p align="center">NATIONAL CHANGES TO REFUSE AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS</p>	<p align="center">REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS</p> <p align="center">MEETING WITH SOUTHERN WATER</p> <p align="center">SEA CHANGE REVIEW</p>
<p align="center">2023/24 WORK PROGRAMME CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORTED</p>			

Agenda Item 5



Report To:	Overview and Scrutiny
Date of Meeting:	27 July 2023
Report Title:	Overview and Scrutiny proposed Work Programme 2022/23 recommendations
Report By:	Coral Harding, Continuous Improvement and Democratic Services Officer
Key Decision:	N/A

Purpose of Report

The report presents the final recommendations from the Overview and Scrutiny committee work programme that ran for the municipal year 2022-23.

Overview and Scrutiny work programme forms a key part of the committee's work. Any recommendations put forward by the committee will be for the benefit of the organisation and the public.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. Finance review group recommends the following;**
 - a) Councillors to receive specialised financial training**
 - b) Councillors to receive briefings when requested on decisions with financial implementations.**
 - c) Overview and Scrutiny to identify pre decision scrutiny opportunities for involvement and development**

- 2. Equalities review group recommends the following;**
 - a) Overview and Scrutiny to review the Park Safety Project**
 - b) Equalities Working Group to continue meet and investigate lines of enquiry**

- 3. Living Environment review group recommends the following;**
 - a) Overview and Scrutiny to invite Southern Water for discussions about their future plans for the town**
 - b) Overview and Scrutiny to review the use of My Hastings by residents**
 - c) Overview and Scrutiny to review Climate Change delivery plan**

- 4. Follow up theme review group recommends the following;**
 - a) Motions constitutional reform requesting 6 monthly reports to Full Council be reviewed and agreed.**
 - b) Overview and Scrutiny to review Sea Change's past and future activities in the borough**

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The council's financial situation requires critical decision making by councillors. The committee would like to see this skill set enhanced. They believe early intervention in key decisions will lead them to be more robust and resilient.
2. The Park Safety Project responded to public needs. A review will ensure these are still being met. The Equalities Working Group have identified further areas of opportunity and development.
3. The living environment in our borough needs to be clean and healthy to promote good health and wellbeing. It is important that the public see the council actively pursue this.
4. It is important that key parts of previous work programmes are followed up and finalised.

Introduction

1. The Overview and Scrutiny committee sets a work programme for each municipal year. This year's work programme was agreed at Annual Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 27th July 2022.
2. The committee grouped the work into 4 themes; Finance, Equalities, Living Environment and Follow up 2021. The agreed work programme for 2022/23 can be found in appendix A.
3. The committee pursued their lines of enquiry in several ways through updates, briefing and informal meetings. These were delivered and supported by a range of Officers and Portfolio Holders.
4. The committee would like to thank them for their help with the work programme and their continued support.

Finance Theme conclusions

5. Councillors found during their investigations that there needed to be stronger financial skill set amongst the councillors to make critical decisions.
6. They believe this can be achieved through specialised training, briefing and pre scrutiny decision involvement.
7. Their recommendations are being made to reflect the current needs amongst councillors and the council's financial situation.

Equalities Theme conclusions

(i) Violence Against Women and Park Safety project

8. The Park Safety Work has been completed and feedback from the public has been generally positive. The committee will monitor its impact on park users and will undertake a review at a later point this year.

(ii) Equalities Working Group

The Equalities Working Group has met several times and have established that they would like to continue their lines of enquiries. The working group will still be open to all councillors.

Living Environment conclusions

9. The committee are still concerned by the Southern Waters performance in relation to bathing water quality, sewage discharges and flooding in the borough.
10. They would like to invite Southern Water to talk about plans for the town and the prevention of further incidents.
11. The committee would like to encourage the further promotion of My Hastings. The committee notes the recent positive reporting figures and would like to investigate further on how residents are using the service.

12. The committee would like to see the climate change delivery plan for the year. They welcome the Portfolio Holder's invite to work closer on this.

Follow Up Theme conclusions

13. The committee recommended a constitutionally reform for a 6 monthly report to Full Council on how motions had been implemented as part of the 2021/2022 work programme. The committee would like this reform to be agreed.
14. The committee would still like the opportunity to review Sea Change's activities and future plans for the borough.

Timetable of Next Steps

15. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

Action	Key milestone	Due date (provisional)	Responsible
Overview and Scrutiny to agree recommendations	Recommendations agreed	27 th July 2023	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Agreed recommendations sent for response to relevant committee or Officer	Report to relevant committee	September	Democratic Services

Wards Affected

None

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score:

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

- Equalities and Community Cohesiveness Y
- Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17) Y
- Risk Management Y
- Environmental Issues & Climate Change Y
- Economic/Financial Implications Y
- Human Rights Act Y
- Organisational Consequences Y
- Local People's Views Y
- Anti-Poverty Y

Additional Information

Appendix A- Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-23

Officer to Contact

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Appendix A: Proposed Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

	FINANCE	EQUALITIES	LIVING ENVIRONMENT	FOLLOW UP
QUARTER 2	<p align="center">DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL ASSET REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">EQUALITIES MOTION WORKING GROUP REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">WASTE, RECYCLING, AND STREET CLEANSING REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">MOTIONS RECOMMENDATION REVIEW</p>
QUARTER 3	<p align="center">PROJECT PRIORITISATION AND SPEND REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">CONTINUATION WORKING WITH LOCAL GROUPS FOR FEEDBACK</p>	<p align="center">QUALITY OF BATHING WATER REVIEW</p>	<p align="center">MEETING WITH THE LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</p>
	<p align="center">POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL REVIEWS IF TIME AND RESOURCES PERMIT</p>			<p align="center">MEETING WITH SEA CHANGE</p>
QUARTER 4	<p align="center">2022/23 WORK PROGRAMME CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORTED</p>			

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