

Harborough District Council

Report to the Services and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Meeting of 6th February 2025



Title:	Services and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel Draft Workplan
Status:	Public report
Key Decision:	No
Report Author:	Sarah Hamilton
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Beadle, Corporate & Regulatory Services
Appendices:	Appendix A – Draft Scrutiny Workplan Appendix B – Council's Forward Plan

Executive Summary

The current draft Workplan for the Services and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel has been populated using a combination of items previously referred to Scrutiny from various sources, officer or member-led items, and statutory items.

The Workplan will be reviewed at each meeting by the Panel and any further possible items assessed against the agreed criteria listed below:

- Public interest – not an individual's issue
- Performance issues
- Relevant to HDC and its objectives
- Timely – able to act in time, not covered in the last year
- Ability to make a difference/impact/influence
- Not covered by another committee or function of the council
- Resources to deliver – is there enough capacity in the council to deliver the outcomes/review

Recommendations
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To review the existing Workplan with a view to determining what, if any, adjustments to make, as attached at Appendix A. 2. To create Task and Finish Groups as required. 3. To review the Forward Plan of Key Decisions (Appendix B) and consider whether it wishes to enquire about any of the forthcoming decisions within its remit.
Reasons for Recommendations
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is appropriate that the Panel's Workplan for the coming months will facilitate Council business and the achievement of the agreed Corporate priorities, and enable Panel members and officers to plan work efficiently.

1. Purpose of Report

For the Panel to review the workplan adopted in accordance with its terms of reference.

2. Background

2.1 The Workplan has been populated using a combination of items previously referred to Panel from various sources, officer or member-led items, and statutory items. The workplan will be on the agenda at each Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting.

3. Details

3.1 The Council's Forward Plan is attached at Appendix B. Its inclusion allows the Services and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel to identify known decisions which will be made by the Cabinet in the next few months and to identify if Scrutiny involvement can add value to the debate.

4. Implications of Decisions

4.1. Corporate Priorities

The Services and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel will review its Workplan to ensure that it supports the corporate vision of building a future for the people of Harborough district that gives them the best life chances and opportunities through:

- Place and Community - Community leadership to create a sense of pride in our place; and
- Healthy Lives – Promoting health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy life choices.

4.2. Financial

No direct financial implications arise directly from this report.

4.3. Legal

The requirement to establish a mechanism by which the Cabinet can be held to account stems from the Local Government Act 2000 and the Localism Act 2011 which require the Council to maintain a transparent and robust scrutiny function.

Harborough District Council's Constitution requires that the Service and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Panel exercises the functions set out in the terms of reference of the Panel, as set out at Part 2, Article 6.

The Constitution also requires the Panel to prepare a work programme after the start of the municipal year, however the Panel need not keep to the published work programme. (Part 4,4.5.13).

4.4. Policy

The Council needs to ensure that it has an appropriate Scrutiny work-plan in place in order that Scrutiny can hold the Cabinet to account, undertake policy development, contribute to improved decision-making, and channel the voice of the public.

4.5. Environmental Implications including contributions to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

None as far as this report is concerned.

4.6. Risk Management

None as far as this report is concerned.

4.7. Equalities Impact

None as far as this report is concerned.

4.8. Data Protection

As the report contains no personal information, the principles set out in the Data Protection Act 2018 are not engaged.

Summary of Consultation and Outcome

The Workplan has been prepared in conjunction with Corporate Management Team, report authors and the Chairman of the Service and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

5. Alternative Options Considered

Not applicable.

6. Background papers

None.