

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee
Date:	30 March 2017
Subject:	Scrutiny Work Programme 2017/18

Summary:

This report invites the Committee to begin the process of producing a scrutiny work programme for the new Council for the municipal year 2017/18.

Actions Required:

That the Committee considers the initial suggestions for scrutiny topics included in this report to be put forward for inclusion in the scrutiny work programme for 2017/18.

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 16 December 2016, Council adopted with immediate effect a scrutiny – executive protocol, 'Developing Effective Relationships between the Executive and Scrutiny.'
- 1.2 The protocol states that each year the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC), which has been renamed Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) in the new structure, will draw up in advance the annual scrutiny programme. This will be based on the results of meetings between the scrutiny chairmen, vice-chairmen and officers in the various service areas, using the recently-adopted prioritisation toolkit.
- 1.3 Some initial thoughts have been gathered by scrutiny officers from the current chairmen and vice-chairmen and service area officers. These are included in the appendices to this report, but it has to be borne in mind that new committee members after the election in May 2017 may have further ideas that will need to be incorporated in the programme.
- 1.4 There may also be requests from the Executive for scrutiny committees to consider particular items within their remit.
- 1.5 The protocol highlights the need to ensure there is adequate resource identified for delivering the programme, with some unallocated time for unplanned scrutiny items.

- 1.6 The management of the work programme of each scrutiny committee is a role for the OSMB. During discussions at meetings of the Review of Scrutiny Working Group, officers were tasked with reviewing the process behind that role.
- 1.7 To ensure added value, officers consider it important to focus on the performance of the scrutiny committees rather than using the work programme item as an opportunity to introduce anecdotal evidence into a debate that the individual scrutiny committees should be having.
- 1.8 It is therefore planned to rotate the scrutiny committees' work programme item on the OSMB to allow committee chairmen to provide regular updates, and at the same time provide fellow scrutineers with an opportunity to challenge.
- 1.9 At the request of Group Leaders, a working group has been set up to consider the potential impact on Lincolnshire of Britain's exit from Europe. During discussions at that working group it has been suggested that scrutiny committees might wish to include this topic in their work programme.
- 1.10 The new structure includes two Scrutiny Panels to carry out detailed review work at the request of the scrutiny committees. It is anticipated that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board will require oversight of this work to ensure the appropriate prioritisation.

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 The management of the work programme of each scrutiny committee is a role for OSMC. This report provides an opportunity for that process to begin, while appreciating that in the fourth year of a Council term, a degree of flexibility has to remain to incorporate the wishes of the new Council after the election in May 2017.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Yes

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

In considering the scrutiny work programme for the year 2017/18 councillors must ensure that there is adequate capacity within the system – both officers and councillors - to support the proposals.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme
Appendix B	Adult Care and Public Health Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Appendix C	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Appendix D	Communities and Public Protection Scrutiny Committee Work Programme
Appendix E	Environment, Economy and Transport Scrutiny Committee Work Programme / Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
Appendix F	Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire Work Programme

5. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Review of Scrutiny report to Council 16 December 2016	Democratic Services; Lincolnshire County Council website

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