

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 5 December 2022

7.00 pm

160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH (Ground Floor West Area)

Membership

Councillor Ian Wingfield (Chair)
Councillor Irina Von Wiese (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Suzanne Abachor
Councillor Victor Chamberlain
Councillor Ellie Cumbo
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Laura Johnson
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Margy Newens
Councillor Jason Ochere
Councillor Leo Pollak
Martin Brecknell (Co-opted Member)
Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer (Co-opted Member)
Marcin Jagodzinski (Co-opted Member)
Mannah Kargbo (Co-opted Member)

Reserves

Councillor Rachel Bentley
Councillor Sam Dalton
Councillor Sam Foster
Councillor Esme Hicks
Councillor Emily Hickson
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Richard Leeming
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Sandra Rhule
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Cleo Soanes

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

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Contact

Everton Roberts on 020 7525 7221 or email: everton.roberts@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Althea Loderick

Chief Executive

Date: 25 November 2022



Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Monday 5 December 2022
7.00 pm
160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH (Ground Floor West Area)

Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	PART A - OPEN BUSINESS	
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
4.	MINUTES	
	To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2022 (to follow).	

5. COST OF LIVING CRISIS

To hear evidence from organisations/volunteer groups directly supporting residents in relation to the impact of the cost of living crisis. The committee will hear from:

- Steve Hedger, Albrighton Community Fridge (Foodbank)
- Sophie Wellings, Chief Executive, Link Age Southwark
- Ross Diamond, Chief Executive Officer, Age UK Lewisham and Southwark
- Chris Green, Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Southwark

To hear evidence in relation to the impact of the cost of living crisis on mental health and wellbeing. The committee will hear from:

- Chris Williamson, Head of Health and Wellbeing, Public Health
- NHS representative(s) - to be confirmed

To receive an update from the lead cabinet member for cost of living crisis, Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Finance, and Dominic Cain, Director of Exchequer.

6. DIGITAL STRATEGY & CUSTOMER ACCESS

To receive an update on how the council is ensuring that council services are accessible to all residents, and what the council is doing to improve digital accessibility to all services, particularly the most vulnerable.

The committee will hear from:

- Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Finance (Lead cabinet member)
- Dionne Lowndes, Chief Digital & Technology Officer

Note: The committee received a presentation on the Technology and Digital Inclusion Strategy 2022 – 2025 at its meeting held on 12 January 2022 (Item 10). Link to report <https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=308&MId=7004&Ver=4>

**7. SUPPORT BEING PROVIDED TO SOUTHWARK
LGBTQ+COMMUNITIES**

To receive an update on what follow up there has been since the presentation of the Southwark LGBTQ+ Network report received by Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2020 (Item 5), and how the council is progressing LGBTQ+ equality in the borough.

The committee will hear from:

- Councillor Stephanie Cryan, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Finance (Lead cabinet member)
- Jessica Leech, Community Engagement Manager (General overview)
- Catherine Brownell, Programme Manager, Sustainable Growth (Regeneration/property perspective)

Note: Link to Southwark LGBTQ+ Network report <https://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=308&Mid=6727&Ver=4> (see item 5)

8. WORK PROGRAMME

1 - 9

To note the work programme as at 5 December 2022.

**DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE
START OF THE MEETING.**

Date: 25 November 2022

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 5 December 2022	Meeting Name: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Report title:		Work Programme 2022-23	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		N/a	
From:		Head of Scrutiny	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the overview and scrutiny committee note the work programme as at 5 December 2022 attached as Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The terms of reference for the overview and scrutiny committee are:
 - a) to appoint commissions, agreeing the size, composition and terms of reference and to appoint chairs and vice chairs
 - b) to agree the annual work programme for OSC and the commissions
 - c) to consider requests from the cabinet and/or council assembly for scrutiny reviews
 - d) to exercise the right to call-in for reconsideration of executive decisions made but not yet implemented
 - e) to arrange for relevant functions in respect of health scrutiny to be exercised by an overview and scrutiny committee of another local authority where the council considers that another local authority would be better placed to undertake those relevant functions, and that local authority agrees to exercise those functions
 - f) if appropriate, to appoint a joint overview and scrutiny committee with two or more local authorities and arrange for the relevant functions of those authorities to be exercised by the joint committee
 - g) to periodically review overview and scrutiny procedures to ensure that the function is operating effectively
 - h) to report annually to all councillors on the previous year's scrutiny activity
 - i) to scrutinise matters in respect of:
 - the council's policy and budget framework
 - regeneration
 - human resources and the council's role as an employer and corporate practice generally
 - customer access issues, including digital strategy, information

- technology and communications
 - the council's equalities and diversity programmes.
3. The work programme document lists those items which have been or are to be considered in line with the committee's terms of reference.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. Set out in Appendix 1 (Work Programme) are the issues the overview and scrutiny committee is due to consider in the 2022-23 municipal year.
5. The work programme is a standing item on the overview and scrutiny committee agenda and enables the committee to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda and minutes	Southwark Council Website	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=308		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Work Programme 2022-23

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny	
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny	
Version	Final	
Dated	24 November 2022	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team	24 November 2022	

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – 2022/23

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
6 July 2022		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Chief Executive, Southwark Council 	Deferred due to ill health of chief executive.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Commission Work Programmes 2022-23 	Initial work programmes for OSC and Commissions agreed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central London Bus Review 	<p>The committee heard from TfL representatives and cabinet member.</p> <p>Item to also be added to the agenda for the next meeting.</p>
12 October 2022		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Chief Executive, Southwark Council 	Introduction took place. No follow up required
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Delivery Plan 2022 - 2026 	Report presented – Further report to come November / January subject to when performance data becomes available.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Emergency – Performance against smart targets 	Report presented – Further report to come November / January subject to when performance data becomes available.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of Living Crisis 	Report presented – offer made by cabinet member to provide an update after the winter period.

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny Review of Regeneration in the Borough of Southwark – Cabinet Response Item included on the agenda for information only. 	Cabinet response noted.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthwatch Southwark Annual Report 2021/22 <p>Item to be included on agenda for information only.</p>	Report noted.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme 	Reviewed at each meeting.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central London Bus Review 	Deferred to later date due to timing of TfL responses to consultations. TfL to be invited to 11 January OSC meeting by which time responses to consultations will have been confirmed.
5 December 2022		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of Living Crisis – Further update 	On agenda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Strategy & Customer Access 	On agenda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for Southwark LGBTQ+ communities 	On agenda
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work Programme 	Reviewed at each meeting.

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
11 January 2023		
	<p>Initial Budget Scrutiny</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Finance – initial discussion on budget including presentation on December Local Government Settlement 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on HRA as part of budget setting process 	<p>Briefing on the Housing Revenue Account and proposed budget so that can properly scrutinise during the budget setting process.</p> <p>Also deeper look this year as huge cost pressures in terms of materials and labour supplies, repairs, also lots of social landlords, council and housing associations looking at what to do with their rent increases over the coming year because they are all indexed to inflation, so potentially looking at a 11% increase for council tenants. Also look at the campaign positions the council might be able to take.</p> <p>HRA to be agreed by Cabinet at the 17 January meeting.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Emergency Fund (from a budget perspective) 	<p>Information still to be requested.</p>

Meeting	Agenda items	Comment
	Other items	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="566 352 1099 416">• Council Delivery Plan – Update on Performance Q1 & Q2 	Request for report still to be made
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="566 469 1077 533">• Climate Emergency – Update on Performance Q1 & Q2 	Request for report still to be made
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="566 585 864 616">• Work Programme 	Reviewed at each meeting.
23 January 2023		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="566 665 943 695">• Annual budget Scrutiny 	Daytime meeting
24 January 2023		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="566 745 1155 809">• Budget Scrutiny – Formulation of OSC recommendations to cabinet 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="566 861 1193 925">• Additional items to be added to agenda if required 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="566 978 864 1008">• Work Programme 	Reviewed at each meeting.
1 March 2023		
	Items to be confirmed	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="566 1168 864 1198">• Work Programme 	Reviewed at each meeting.
26 April 2023		
	Items to be confirmed	Scrutiny reviews must be concluded by this date.

Items requiring scheduling

Meeting (tbc)	Agenda items	Comment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equalities, Diversity & Inclusion Framework 	<p>Southwark Equality Framework agreed by cabinet in July 2021. Noted but not discussed by OSC in July 2021.</p> <p>Director of Communities suggesting taking an item to OSC early next year which will take account of Equality Audit of the organisation and more detailed action plan. Meeting date to be confirmed.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Workforce Strategy 	Date for consideration by cabinet to be confirmed.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration Scrutiny – focus on individual schemes Old Kent Road, viability benchmarking, etc 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central London Bus Review 	Consideration needed on whether further scrutiny required in light of consultation outcome.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet Member Interviews <p>Cllr Kieron Williams, Leader of the Council</p> <p>Cllr Jasmine Ali, Children, Young People, Education and Refugees</p>	To be determined as and when appropriate

	<p>Cllr Evelyn Akoto, Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Cllr Stephanie Cryan, Communities, Equalities and Finance</p> <p>Cllr Dora Dixon-Fyle, Community Safety</p> <p>Cllr James McAsh, Climate, Emergency and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Cllr Darren Merrill, Council Homes and Homelessness</p> <p>Cllr Catherine Rose, Leisure, Parks, Streets and Clean Air</p> <p>Cllr Martin Seaton, Jobs, Business and Town Centres</p>	
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OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MUNICIPAL YEAR 22-23

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