

Meeting Name:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 July 2024
Report title:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Commission Work Programmes 2024/25
Ward(s) or groups affected:	N/a
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	N/a
From:	Head of Scrutiny

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee consider and agree annual work programmes for overview and scrutiny committee and its commissions for the 2024/25 municipal year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Paragraph 6 of the overview and scrutiny procedure rules states that terms of reference of the overview and scrutiny committee will be:
 - 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 general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area
- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
- f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
- g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
- h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
- i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
- j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
- k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
- l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options

m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. In accordance with the provision set out in 2(a) above, the overview and scrutiny committee established four commissions for the 2024-25 municipal year at its meeting held on 22 May 2024.
 - Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission
 - Environment Scrutiny Commission
 - Housing, Community Safety and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission
 - Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission
5. In accordance with the provision set out in 2(b) above, overview and scrutiny committee is being recommended to agree scrutiny work programmes for the 2024-25 municipal year.
6. In considering the work programmes the overview and scrutiny committee is recommended to focus on key issues where scrutiny can make a significant impact for local people, and issues aligned to the council's strategic priorities.
7. Attached as an appendix are the proposed remits of overview and scrutiny committee and its commissions based on the cabinet portfolio responsibilities set out in the council constitution. The document is for reference purposes only and serves to highlight the cabinet member portfolio responsibilities covered by the overview and scrutiny committee and the scrutiny commissions with a view to assist in directing potential issues for consideration to the correct committee/commission undertaking actions referred to in paragraph 3 above.
8. The work programmes are a standing item on the overview and scrutiny committee and commission agendas and enables the committee/commissions to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section 3.3 - Cabinet Portfolios• Section 9 - Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules	Southwark Council Website	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221
Link: Council Constitution		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Cabinet Member Portfolio Responsibilities - Overview and Scrutiny Committee/Commission Remits 2024/25

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny	
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny	
Version	Final	
Dated	5 July 2024	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director, Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team		5 July 2024