

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN

CIVIC YEAR 2021-22

Chair: Cllr Stephen Andrews

Vice-Chair Cllr Gary Selwyn

The Local Government Act 2000 established four main roles for overview and scrutiny committees to perform:

- Holding the executive to account, including performance management
- Policy development and review
- External scrutiny
- Best value

The Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities published by MHCLG in May 2019 includes a number of policies and practices authorities should adopt or should consider adopting when deciding how to carry out their overview and scrutiny functions.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny and the Local Government Association outlined four principles for effective scrutiny:

- Constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge
- Amplifies the voices and concerns of the public
- Led by independent people who take responsibility for their role
- Drives improvement in public services.

Good scrutiny and good governance support and reinforce these principles and should lead to the following points being taken as key for good scrutiny to thrive:

- **Accountability** – an environment where responsibility for services and decisions is clear and where those holding responsibility can and are answerable for success and failure;

- Transparency – the publication, proactively, of information relating to services and decisions to allow local people, and others, to hold policymakers and decision-makers to account; and,
- Involvement – rules, principles and processes whereby a wide range of stakeholders (including elected representatives) can play active roles in holding to account, and influencing and directing the development of policy.

In addition to the items detailed in this work plan, every agenda will include a review of the Executive Forward Plan, the Quarterly Digest of GCC Scrutiny meetings and the Scrutiny Work Plan

Meeting Date	Topic	Objectives for Scrutiny	Relevant Cabinet Member	Lead Officer	Method
1 March 2022	Council, Priority and Service Performance Report - 2021/22 Q3	To enable Committee Members to identify financial or outcome-based trends so they are in a position to identify areas that may need more detailed study.	All relevant Cabinet Members	Andy Barge	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
	Publica Update, including Publica Business Plan	To enable Committee Members to be aware of developments and in a position to identify areas that may need more detailed study and to review the Publica Business Plan for 2022/23	Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Jan Britton	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
	Review of Development Management	To provide committee members with an update report in relation to Development Management.	Juliet Layton Cabinet Member for Development Management and Licensing	Jan Britton	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
	Corporate Plan	To review progress against the Corporate Plan	Joe Harris, Leader of the Council	Robert Weaver	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
*24 May 2022					

* An informal meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Members will be arranged following the completion of the 1 March meeting. This meeting will enable Committee Members to discuss and agree topics for consideration at the 24 May and future Committee meetings.