

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PLAN CIVIC YEAR

2022-23

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 | Item | Description of Scrutiny focus | Lead Member | Supporting Officer |
|-------------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------|
| 24 th January 2023 | Budget | Update on Budget and MTFS ahead of budget setting by Council in February. Identify impacts from Autumn Statement. | Cllr Mike Evey, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance | David Stanley |
| | Broadband Fastershire | <i>Clarification on the status of this is awaited and will inform agenda item.</i> | | Paul James |
| | Leisure and Culture Options Update | Scrutiny of procurement process to-date ahead of Cabinet and Council decisions to appoint a | Cllr Jenny Forde Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing | Scott Williams |
| | Peer Review: Overview & Scrutiny Recommendations | Update on delivery against Peer Review action plan. Peer Review report going to January Cabinet. | Cllr Joe Harris, Leader of the Council | Rob Weaver |
| | Quarterly Digest | | | - |
| | Work Plan/Executive Forward Plan | | | - |

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|-----------------|----------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| 21st March 2023 | | | | |
| | Neighbourhood Planning | To receive an update on which communities have Neighbourhood Plans or are developing them and | Cllr Rachel Coxcoon Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Forward Planning | James Brain |
| | Publica Business Plan 2023/24 | The existing Business Plan is for 2022 – 2025. There is therefore no new business plan for 2023/24 but Committee will receive an update report against the current Business Plan. | Cllr Joe Harris, Leader | Jan Britton |
| | Q3 2022/23 Performance Report | To scrutinize performance as set out in the Q3 performance report. | Cllr Joe Harris, Leader | Rob Weaver |
| | Quarterly Digest | | | - |
| | Work Plan/Executive Forward Plan | | | - |
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List of possible items for 2023/24 workplan TBC

| Meeting Date | Item | Description of Scrutiny focus | Lead Member | Supporting Officer |
|------------------|--|--|-------------|--------------------|
| First mtg | Leisure and culture procurement update | Suggest focuses on mobilization plans, any changes for the customer, any investment in | | Scott Williams |
| First Mtg | Peer Review | Update against Peer Review Action Plan | | Rob Weaver |
| First mtg | Employment Policy Review | Update on Employment Policy Improvements | | Zoe Campbell |
| Second Mtg | Asset Management Strategy | Update on approach to asset management | | Claire Locke |
| Second/third Mtg | Local Plan update | After Reg.19 sign off, scrutiny of whether sufficient resources are in place to deliver plan and how this will be managed. | | James Brain |