

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

The Role of Scrutiny in Meeting the Public Sector Equality Duty

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a key role to play in ensuring that the Council meets all the statutory duties under the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act 2010, particularly in ensuring that the authority has due regard to the needs of diverse groups when designing, evaluating and delivering services in order to –

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

In order to do this, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will scrutinise the Council's Equality and Diversity Action Plan and Annual Achievement Report each year to monitor the Authority's performance. The OS Committee will be flexible enough to pick up on issues of inequality, wherever they arise in the Council work programme, or to delegate to individual workstreams for investigation. OSC has a key role in providing a 'critical friend' challenge to the Council's strategic equality objectives and scrutinising performance in delivering those objectives.

In addition, as part of their normal work programme, each workstream will (where relevant and proportionate) -

- request information about the equality impact assessments/analyses that have been undertaken whenever discussing proposals for new policies or future plans, or for current services, to inform their comments on those proposals or services
- examine these assessments/analyses of impact in detail to check if they are robust and have been developed based on strong evidence and appropriate engagement
- question and consider whether appropriate people have been involved and engaged in developing equality objectives and plans, and when assessing the impact of policies and proposals.
- when procurement award criteria and contracts are determined, consider whether or not specific equality stipulations are required
- Scrutiny may also wish to investigate the accessibility of equality and other published documents, asking questions such as –
 - what is done to promote these documents?
 - what languages or formats is the information available in?
 - which documents are most regularly required?
 - how aware are the public of the Authority's equality plans and performance?

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WORK	Lead Officer	25 May (Planning)	11 July (joint with Crime Scrutiny)	25 July	6 Sept	8 Nov	18 Jan	22 Feb	11 April
Work Programme									
Setting the Overview & Scrutiny Annual Work Programme 2017/18	Claire Johnson			Agree Work Programme					
Selection of New Workstreams for 2017/18 and 2018/19	Claire Johnson	Review and Approve Workstreams 17/18							Consider New workstreams 18/19
Workstreams Update (standing and time-limited)	Claire Johnson								
Scrutiny Workstream Reports						School Places-Recommendations Sue O'Connell			
Agenda Planning	Andy Ellis								
Standing Items									
Children's and Young People's Issues	Tony Theodoulou			Adoption Regionalisation	Early Years Troubled Families	School Places Education Attainment		Homeless 16/17 year olds YOS Activity	SEND Social Care Report

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Topics:									
Meridian Water	Requested by Cllr Levy					Report			
Knife Crime	Andrea Clemons/ Paul Sutton		Report						
Pre-decision Scrutiny					Housing Allocations Policy				
CALL-IN									

Note: Provisional call-in dates:- 20th June, 10th August, 14th September, 12th October, 9th November,
7th December, 21st December, 8th February, 13th and 29th March, 5th and 19th April.