

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Management Board**

18 March 2019



**Refresh of the Work Programme
2019/20 for the Corporate Overview and
Scrutiny Management Board**

Ordinary Decision

Report of Corporate Management Team

**Lorraine O'Donnell, Corporate Director of Transformation and
Partnerships**

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) with the opportunity to review and refresh the work programme for 2019/20.

Executive summary

- 2 COSMB review their work programme each year to reflect the four objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan for the Council's Altogether Better Council priority theme.
- 3 The Council Plan is set in the context of the Sustainable Community Strategy which is undergoing a refresh process. This report reflects the current Council Plan but recognises that a key priority in both the current and the new Plan will be the Transformation Programme.

Recommendation(s)

- 4 COSMB is recommended to:
 - (a) Note and comment on the proposed COSMB work programme in relation to the current Council Plan 2016-2019 Altogether Better Council theme

- (b) Note that a further report to agree the COSMB work programme for 2019/20 will be submitted to the June 2019 meeting.

Background

- 5 The current overview and scrutiny committees work programmes focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the:
- Council Plan
 - Cabinet's Notice of Key Decisions
 - Sustainable Community Strategy
 - Partnership plans and strategies
 - Performance and budgetary control data
 - Changes in government legislation
- 6 This year there is change underway in the policy context of the Council as work is taking place to refresh the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). This is being undertaken because the SCS is now almost ten years old. The new vision is expected to be in place in the summer and will inform final versions of scrutiny work programmes. The current Council Plan was developed in the context of the SCS and there will be a chance for update once the new vision is agreed. However the current Council Plan still applies.

Council Plan 2016 -19

- 7 To help improve the performance of the Council, there are currently four objectives for an Altogether Better Council, underpinned by 11 outcomes:

Putting the customer first:

- A range of access routes to services
- Responsive and customer focused services
- People are treated fairly and differences respected.

Working with our communities:

- Communities and stakeholders are engaged and communicated with
- Effective partnership working
- Responding to effects of poverty and Welfare Reform.

Effective use of resources

- A balanced three year financial plan that reflects council priorities
- Making the best use of our assets and managing information
- Efficient and effective services.

Support our people through change:

- Employee and member well-being
- A strategic approach to organisational development.

- 8 Looking ahead to a new Council Plan, the key emerging issue to be considered alongside is the Council's Transformation Programme which supports progress on many of the objectives above.

Current Work Programme

- 9 During 2018/19, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, in-depth scrutiny reviews and considered overview presentations.
- 10 In depth and light touch scrutiny reviews
- Budget and MTFP process
 - Update on the Customer Relationship Management System
- 11 Areas of overview activity
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
 - Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions Reports
 - Overview of performance in relation to 'Altogether Better Council' priority (corporate performance reports)
 - Overview of partnership work (County Durham Plan, AAPs)
 - Transformation Programme
- 12 Budgetary and performance monitoring
- Quarterly budgetary monitoring for Transformation and Partnerships and Resources.
 - Quarterly corporate performance monitoring overview for the whole Council.
- 13 COSMB led a workshop for all overview and scrutiny members in January 2019 looking at the emerging findings from the initial consultation on the refresh of the County Durham Vision.

Areas for consideration in the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme

- 14 COSMB are asked to review and consider their work programme for next year in the context of the challenges the Council faces including ongoing austerity, the Council's Transformation Programme and the Sustainable Community Strategy and Council Plan in the knowledge they are undergoing a refresh exercise.
- 15 COSMB may also wish to give particular consideration to points raised in previous meetings.
- 16 At the 22 June 2018 COSMB meeting the work programme for 2018/19 was discussed and finalised. In addition to the agreed work programme, reference was made to the appraisal system as an area identified for potential future review work.

Background papers

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

None

Finance

None

Consultation

None

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

None

Human Rights

None

Crime and Disorder

None

Staffing

None

Accommodation

None

Risk

The Overview and Scrutiny work programme is an important element of the Council's governance and risk management arrangements.

Procurement

None