

**Safer and Stronger Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

22 March 2019

Refresh of the Work Programme



Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Director of Transformation and Partnerships

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SSC OSC) with the opportunity to review and refresh the work programme for 2019/20

Executive summary

- 2 SSC OSC refresh their work programme each year to reflect the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan for the Council's Altogether Safer priority theme and the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.
- 3 The Council Plan is set in the context of the Sustainable Community Strategy which is itself going through 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.
- 4 The report and attached appendices provide information for members to note activity undertaken by the Committee during 2018/19 and enable discussion to suggest areas for review activity or agenda items to be included within the Committee's work programme for 2019/20.

Recommendations

- 5 SSC OSC is recommended to:
 - (a) Note the information contained in the Council Plan 2016-2019 Altogether Safer theme (copy attached at Appendix 2).

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

Background

- 6 The current Overview and Scrutiny Committees Work Programmes focus on the priority areas identified within the context of the:
- Council Plan
 - Cabinet's Forward Plan of decisions
 - Sustainable Community Strategy
 - Safe Durham Partnership plans and strategies
 - performance data
 - changes in Government legislation
- 7 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 has been 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 – 2019

- 8 To help improve the performance of the Council, there are the following six objectives within the Altogether Safer elements within the Council Plan:
- Reduce Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Protect vulnerable people from harm
 - Reduce re-offending
 - Alcohol and Substance misuse harm reduction
 - Implement measures to promote a safe environment
 - Embed the Think Family approach

- 9 Within the Council's Altogether Safer priority theme, the focus is to work with partner organisations, as part of the Safe Durham Partnership, to tackle crime and disorder in County Durham.
- 10 The Council supports the Safe Durham Partnership Plan in its strategic plan to deliver a day-to-day operational response to issues impacting on our neighbourhoods. The Council will work with partners to involve the community in tackling priorities, with the aim of creating a safer county and contributing to an Altogether Better Durham.
- 11 In addition to providing a scrutiny role for activity of the council, the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of Part 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
- 12 The Committee is therefore responsible for scrutinising the work of the Safe Durham Partnership. Throughout 2018/19 the Committee has reviewed and considered reports from the Safe Durham Partnership in relation to its priority areas linked to the existing Safe Durham Partnership Plan. It is to note that with exception of 'Counter Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism, the current priority objectives are aligned to the objectives within the Council Plan.
- 13 A refresh of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan is currently being undertaken with draft plan to be presented to the committee. Following publication of the Plan, the Committee's work programme is to be flexible to accommodate associated actions within the plan.

Current Work Programme

- 14 Appendix 3 to this report outlines activity during 2018/19 that the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has undertaken. This includes performance monitoring, in depth Scrutiny review, reviews of progress against recommendations, workshops, focused committee meetings and overview presentations in relation to priority objectives and actions of the Council and Safe Durham Partnership Plans.

Performance Monitoring

- 15 The Committee has considered and commented on quarterly performance reports on 'Altogether Safer' performance indicators and Council Plan objectives.

Police and Crime Panel

- 16 The Committee has a joint working arrangement with the Durham Police and Crime Panel (PCP) that is crucial to provide a communication between the PCP and the Committee. This arrangement includes receiving update reports from the PCP at each Committee meeting and prior to undertaking an in-depth study into a crime and disorder issue, discussion takes place between both the Chairs of the PCP and Committee and Secretariat to avoid duplication of effort and resources.

Areas for consideration in the SSC OSC Work Programme

- 17 Appendix 3 contains activity undertaken during 2018/19 to which Members may consider including progress reports within the 2019/20 work programme. Appendix 3 also identifies that items on Counter Terrorism and Community and organisational resilience for emergency preparedness, response are items to be considered for inclusion within the Committee's 2019/20 work programme.
- 18 With regard to review activity, work is ongoing with the joint review on Children's Residential Homes with Children and Young people's OSC and the Committee are to commence activity on development of a County Durham road safety strategy. Looking ahead, Members are invited to suggest potential topics for future review activity throughout 2019/20 and agree at its first meeting on 24th June 2019.

Main implications

Crime and Disorder

- 19 Information with this report aims to contribute to objectives within the existing Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership plan to reducing crime and disorder.

Conclusion

- 20 The report and attached appendices provide information for members to note and comment on activity undertaken during 2018/19 and suggest areas to consider for review activity or agenda items within its work programme for 2019/20.
- 21 Background papers
- None

Other useful documents

- 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

Information with this report aims to contribute to objectives within the existing Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership plan to reducing crime and disorder.

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.