

**Corporate Overview and Scrutiny  
Management Board**

**20 March 2020**



**Refresh of the Work Programme  
2020/21 for the Corporate Overview and  
Scrutiny Management Board**

**Ordinary Decision**

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**Report of Corporate Management Team**

**John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources**

**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 2020/21.

**Executive summary**

- 2 A new shared County Durham Vision 2035 has been developed with partners around three strategic ambitions – ‘more and better jobs’, ‘long and independent lives’ and ‘connected communities’.
- 3 COSMB review their work programme each year and this year the work programme review is in the context of the new County Durham Vision 2035, the Council’s Transformation Programme and regular performance and budget updates.

**Recommendation(s)**

- 4 COSMB is recommended to:
  - (a) Note and comment on the proposed COSMB work programme for 2020/21 (Appendix 2), and consider potential areas for in depth review work;
  - (b) Note that a further report to agree the COSMB work programme for 2020/21 will be submitted to the June 2020 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 In October 2019, public, private and voluntary bodies jointly agreed a vision for County Durham. The vision sets out our strategic direction and what we would like to achieve over the next 15 years and contains three broad ambitions for the people of County Durham:
  - More and better jobs
  - People live long and independent lives
  - Connected communities
  
- 7 In addition scrutiny work programmes are informed by the four priorities of Inspire, the Council’s Transformation Programme:
  - Redesign our services to better meet the customer’s needs at reduced cost to the Council
  - Help communities become more resilient and self-reliant
  - To move our partnership working from good to great
  - To become renowned for our skilled and flexible workforce and our employee engagement.
  
- 8 Overview and scrutiny work programmes are developed in the context of the new Vision and Council’s Transformation Programme, as well as an ongoing focus on key questions for improving performance.

## **COSMB Work Programme**

- 9 COSMB’s work programme (Appendix 2) includes regular reviews of three areas – performance, customer feedback: complaints, compliments and suggestions and budget outturns.
  
- 10 During 2019/20, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has undertaken budgetary and performance monitoring, scrutiny reviews and considered overview presentations.
  
- 11 In depth and light touch scrutiny reviews including updates were:

- Budget and MTFP process
- Update on the Attendance Management.

12 Areas of overview activity:

- Scrutiny input into the consultation on Vision 2035
- Digital Strategy and ICT and digital developments
- New statutory scrutiny guidance
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
- Customer Feedback: Complaints, Compliments and Suggestions Reports
- Overview of performance based on the priorities in the Council Plan
- Overview of partnership work including the County Durham Partnership and Area Action Partnerships
- Transformation Programme.

14 Budgetary and performance monitoring:

- Quarterly budgetary monitoring for Resources and Transformation and Partnerships.
- Quarterly corporate performance monitoring overview for the whole Council.

**Areas for consideration in the COSMB Work Programme**

15 COSMB are asked to review and consider their work programme (Appendix 2) for next year in the context of the challenges the Council faces including ongoing austerity, the new shared County Durham Vision 2035 and the Council's Transformation Programme.

16 COSMB may also wish to give particular consideration to issues raised in previous meetings.

**Background papers**

- None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

None

### **Finance**

None

### **Consultation**

None

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None

### **Climate Change**

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