

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

**20 March 2020**

**Refresh of the Work Programme  
2020/21**



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**Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources**

**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 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 SSC OSC reviews its work programme each year and this year the work programme review is in the context of the new County Durham Vision 2035, Safe Durham Partnership Plan and regular performance reports.
- 4 The report provides information for members to note activity undertaken by the Committee during 2019/20 and enable discussion to suggest areas for review activity or agenda items to be included within the SSC OSC work programme for 2020/21.

**Recommendation(s)**

- 5 SSC OSC is recommended to:
  - (a) Note and comment on information within this report and that a further report detailing the SSC OSC work programme will be presented to the 22 June 2020 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 Notice of Key Decisions
  - Sustainable Community Strategy
  - Partnership plans and strategies
  - Performance and budgetary control data
  - Changes in government legislation
- 7 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
- 8 Overview and scrutiny work programmes will reflect the three ambitions and focus on key questions for improving performance.

## **SSC OSC Work Programme**

- 9 In addition to providing a scrutiny role for activity of the council, SSC OSC is the designated Crime and Disorder Committee for the purposes of Part 3 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. The Committee is therefore responsible for scrutinising the work of the Safe Durham Partnership.
- 10 At its meeting in January 2020, the Committee responded to consultation of the draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan. Following publication of the plan, the Committee's work programme is to accommodate associated actions within the plan.
- 11 During 2019/20 the Committee has undertaken review activity, systematic review of progress on recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews, responded to consultations, undertaken performance monitoring and considered overview presentations and reports in relation to the following areas:
- (a) Scrutiny Review
- (i) Road Safety Strategy

- (ii) Children’s Residential Care Homes (Joint review with Children and Young People’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee).
- (b) Systematic Review
  - (i) Arson and Deliberate Secondary Fire in East Durham
  - (ii) Cybercrime
- (c) Overview activity
  - (i) Domestic Abuse
  - (ii) Open Water Safety and City Safety Group
  - (iii) Alcohol and Drug Harm Reduction Strategy Group
  - (iv) County Durham Youth Justice Service – Youth Justice Plan 2019-2021
  - (v) Modern Slavery
  - (vi) Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service
  - (vii) Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
  - (viii) Consumer Protection Enforcement and Intervention Activity
  - (ix) Quarterly Performance Reports
  - (x) Police and Crime Panel activity
- (d) Consultations
  - (i) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Services Integrated Risk Management Plan – Three Year Consultation
  - (ii) Draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan 2020-2025
  - (iii) County Durham and Darlington Road Safety Strategy

## **Police and Crime Panel**

12 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**

- 13 Paragraph 11 of this report identifies activity undertaken by the Committee during 2019/20. The Committee has identified a number of these areas for further progress reports and will need to be included in the committee's work programme for 2020/21.
- 14 With regard to review activity, work is ongoing with development of a road safety strategy. Within this context and to ensure all review activity is completed in advance of the term of this Council, it is suggested to conclude activity on development of the road safety strategy and to also hold focussed sessions on specific areas of the Safe Durham Partnership Plan. The aim with the focussed sessions will be to provide challenge or identify recommendations to the Safe Durham Partnership Board, respective Cabinet Portfolio holders or Cabinet on delivery of each of these actions. This activity will also contribute to a scheduled refresh of the plan in 2021.

## **Main implications**

### *Crime and Disorder*

- 15 Information with this report aims to contribute to activity to reducing crime and disorder within the county.

## **Conclusion**

- 16 The report and attached appendices provide information for members to note and comment on activity undertaken during 2019/20 and suggest areas to consider for review activity or agenda items within its work programme for 2020/21.

## **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**

Information with this report aims to contribute to activity to reducing crime and disorder within the county

### **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