

Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1 March 2021

Refresh of the Work
Programme 2021/22



Report of Paul Darby Interim 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 2021/2022.

Executive summary

- 2 The SSC OSC review their work programme each year to reflect the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within both the Council Plan and Safe Durham Partnership Plan and is set in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035 three ambitions of:
 - More and Better Jobs
 - People Live Long and Independent Lives; and
 - Connected Communities.
- 3 The report (paragraphs 12 - 14) provides information for members to note activity undertaken by the committee during 2020/21 and enable discussion to suggest areas for review activity or agenda items to be included in the committee's work programme for 2021/2022.

Recommendations

- 4 The SSC OSC is recommended to:

- a) Note the proposed SSC OSC work programme in relation to the current Council Plan 2020 -2023 (copy attached at appendix 2) programme.
- b) Note that a further report to agree the SSC OSC work programme for 2021/2022 will be submitted at its first meeting of the 2021/22 municipal year.

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
 - County Durham Vision for 2035
 - Partnership plans and strategies
 - Performance and budgetary control data
 - Changes in government legislation
 - Local Priorities

- 6 In October 2019, public, private and voluntary sector bodies that make up the County Durham Partnership jointly agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035. This vision was based on a strategic assessment of need using our intelligence platform Durham Insight and was developed following extensive consultation with the public. The vision document that was agreed sets out our strategic direction and what we would like to achieve over the next 15 years and is written around three broad ambitions for the people of County Durham:
 - More and better jobs
 - People live long and independent lives
 - Connected communities

- 7 As well as being of key importance to local people's long-term priorities, they remain key strategic ambitions in our response to the COVID-19 crisis, where key impacts relate to employment, health and wellbeing, and communities.

Council Plan 2020 - 2023

- 8 The Council Plan is the primary corporate planning document for the county council and details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Vision for County Durham 2035 together with its own change agenda. It aims to provide a readable and accessible summary for Members, partners and the public of our priorities for the county and the main programmes of work that we will undertake over the coming three years to help achieve these priorities.

- 9 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around three ambitions which are mentioned above. An additional ambition of an excellent council has been developed for the Council Plan to capture the corporate initiatives that the council has identified and that it wants to undertake to transform its operations and enable achievement of the ambitions within the vision.

a) Connected Communities

- (i) All children and young people will have a safe childhood
- (ii) Victims of crime will have access to the right level of support, with services available to address their needs
- (iii) Our towns and villages will be vibrant, well used, clean, attractive and safe.
- (iv) Communities will come together and support each other

Current Work Programme

- 10 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.
- 11 The Committee are scheduled to respond 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.
- 12 During 2020/2021, the SSC OSC had to prioritise items to come to a reduced number of formal meetings and items to be electronically circulated as briefing reports due to the impact of Coronavirus. However, although there was a reduced number of formal meetings, linked to priorities within the County Durham Vision, Council Plan and COVID response, the committee has undertaken review activity, performance monitoring and considered and commented on overview presentations and consultations
- a) Scrutiny Review
 - (i) Road Safety Strategy
 - b) Overview activity
 - (i) Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

- (ii) Safe Durham Partnership Board – Impact of COVID19
 - (iii) Community Protection Services
 - (iv) Public Protection Services
 - (v) County Durham Youth Justice Service Annual Performance Report 2019/20 and Service Improvement Plan 2020/21
 - (vi) County Durham & Darlington Hate Crime Action Group
 - (vii) Probation Programme ‘Plans for future model
 - (viii) Bonfire period and arson
- c) Briefing reports
- (i) Open Water Safety
 - (ii) Off Road Bikes
 - (iii) Alcohol and Substance Misuse Harm Reduction
 - (iv) Reducing Re- Offending
- d) Consultations
- (i) County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Services Community Risk Management Plan – Three Year Consultation
 - (ii) Draft Safe Durham Partnership Plan

Performance Monitoring

- 13 The committee has considered and commented on quarterly performance reports linked to vision priorities of Connected Communities and Long and Independent Lives.

Cross Cutting Areas

- 14 The Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also considered the following areas which cut across objectives within the Council Plan or cut across the remit of other Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- a) Environmental Campaigns – invite to Environment and Sustainable Communities OSC meeting 16 November 2020

- b) Housing Update – invite to Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting 7 December 2020
- c) Child Exploitation – ERASE – briefing note issued by Children & Young Peoples Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Areas for consideration in the Safer and Stronger Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

- 15 Paragraphs 12-14 of this report identifies activity undertaken by the committee during 2020/21. The committee has identified a number of these areas for further progress updates and will need to be included in the committee's work programme for 2021/2022.
- 16 With regard to review activity, the committee concluded its work on the development of a road safety strategy in 2020/21 and with a reduction of committee meetings no further topics were identified. Within this context, the Committee may wish to identify potential areas for review within its 2021/22 work programme.
- 17 The committee will receive a further report at its first meeting within the 2021/22 municipal year where members will be asked to discuss and finalise its work programme and subject to meeting and service capacity will be asked to agree a topic for review activity.

Main Implications

Crime and Disorder

- 18 Information within this report aims to contribute to activity to reducing crime and disorder within the county and is linked to vision priority of Connected Communities and all priorities within the Safe Durham Partnership Plan.

Conclusion

- 19 The report and attached appendices provide information for members to note and comment on activity undertaken during 2020/21 and requests suggested areas to consider for potential review activity or agenda items within its work programme for 2021/22.

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

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