

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

16 June 2023

Refresh of the Work Programme 2023/24 for the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Report of Paul Darby Corporate Director of Resources

Electoral division(s) affected:

None

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To provide the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (COSMB) with the updated work programme for 2023/2024.

Executive summary

- 2 COSMB review their work programme each year to reflect the objectives and associated outcomes and actions identified within the Council Plan and in the context of the County Durham Vision 2035.
- 3 The proposed COSMB work programme has been framed around the shared County Durham Vision 2035 based on the three strategic ambitions of 'more and better jobs', 'long and independent lives' and 'connected communities'. COSMB's work programme also reflects the fourth ambition which captures our corporate initiatives and the ambition to be an excellent council.
- 4 The proposed work programme also reflects the refreshed Council Plan adopted by the County Council at its meeting on 22 February 2023.

Recommendations

- 5 COSMB is recommended to:
 - a) Receive and comment on the proposed COSMB work programme for 2023/24

- b) Agree the COSMB work programme for 2023/2024 and the flexibility it offers to respond to emerging issues.

Background

- 6 COSMB has a strong focus on the MTFP and service improvement and this will continue in 2023/24. The Board will also contribute to policy development where it can add value and insight.
- 7 The current overview and scrutiny committees work programmes are informed by:
 - 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
- 8 The County Durham Partnership agreed a Vision for County Durham 2035 which sets out our strategic direction and what we would like to achieve over the next 15 years. It was developed with partner organisations and the public. It is structured around three broad ambitions for the people of County Durham.
 - More and better jobs
 - People live long and independent lives
 - Communities are well connected and supportive of each other
- 9 Each ambition contains a number of objectives together with some council specific objectives. Following the refresh of the Council Plan in April 2022 and February 2023, it is now structured around five objectives which capture the three ambitions:
 - Our Economy
 - Our People
 - Our Communities
 - Our Environment
 - Our Council

Council Plan 2023 - 2027

- 10 The Council Plan is the primary corporate planning document for the county council. It details Durham County Council's contribution towards achieving the objectives set out in the Vision for County Durham 2035 together with its own ambitious agenda. It provides a summary for

members, partners and the public of our priorities for the county and the main programmes of work that we will undertake to help achieve these priorities. The Plan will now be refreshed each year to reflect the integration of corporate and financial planning.

- 11 Both the Vision for County Durham and the Council Plan are structured around the three ambitions with an additional ambition of an excellent council. The excellent council ambition captures the corporate initiatives the council has identified and wants to undertake to achieve the ambitions within the vision:
- a) Our resources will be managed effectively
 - b) Create a workforce for the future
 - c) Design our services with service users
 - d) Use data and technology more effectively
 - e) We will build an inclusive and welcoming employee culture

Current Work Programme

- 12 During 2022/2023, the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has undertaken review work on the Budget and MTFP process and examined proposals for the Council's HQ alternative options and the Review of DCC Community Engagement (AAPs).
- 13 Overview activity included
- Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000
 - Customer Feedback report
 - Poverty Strategy and Action Plan updates
 - Overview of County Durham Partnership work
 - The County Durham Pound Project
 - The Digital Inclusion project
 - Adult and Health Services Annual Statutory Representations 2021/22
 - The Customer Relationship Management Project
 - Petitions
 - Notice of Key Decisions
- 14 Budgetary and performance monitoring:
- Quarterly budgetary monitoring for the Resources service grouping.
 - Quarterly corporate performance monitoring overview for the whole Council.

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

- 15 COSMB are asked to agree the proposed work programme for next year and consider areas for further progress updates and review topics in light of the refreshed Council Plan and the Vision for County Durham 2035.
- 16 Scrutiny work programmes are designed to be flexible and can respond to items which arise during the year which require scrutiny input.
- 17 Appendix 2 of this report sets out a draft work programme for consideration.

Background papers

- [Council Plan 2023/24 to 2026/27](#)
- [County Durham Vision 2035](#)

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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

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

Appendix 2: COSMB Work Programme

Attached as a separate document.