

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

07 July 2022

Report of the Chief Executive

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

To consider future topics for consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Following a review of governance arrangements, it is now timely to consider issues and activity concerning the Council that would benefit from further consideration by this Committee. Following a request from the Chair, members of the Committee were asked to submit suggestions, there is also an item outstanding (Planning Enforcement), which will now be programmed into the meeting schedule.
- 1.1.2 In addition to items suggested by the Committee, the Chair has requested that a list of Non-Key Decisions (since the previous meeting of Overview and Scrutiny) to be included as a standing item on each agenda, for information.
- 1.1.3 As part of the Scrutiny Work Programme, Members are also reminded that Scrutiny Training is to be undertaken on 5 October 2022 at 19:30 in the Committee Room.

1.2 Review Topics

- 1.2.1 Planning Enforcement – a Scoping Report was presented to this Committee on 18 January 2022 (attached at Annex 1). The final report was due to go to the next meeting, however staff changes meant that this was not possible. The Final Report of Planning Enforcement will now go to the meeting on 15 September 2022. Although a topic such as this, should go to the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee under the new governance arrangements, it was felt appropriate to complete the review in the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee as the Scoping Report started with this Committee.
- 1.2.2 Mandatory services and non-mandatory services - a request has been made to scrutinise which services we are mandated to deliver, and which are fully discretionary or have additionality above mandatory requirements. This will be an

extensive piece of work and it is proposed that a scoping report be presented to the meeting on 15 September 2022, at which point Members can consider areas for priority review with the Final Review at the following meeting (17 November 2022).

- 1.2.3 Local Plan – a request has been made to scrutinise the development of the Local Plan through to Regulation 18 and into Regulation 19, to ensure there is a deliverable strategy to pass inspection. This is appropriate for the Housing and Planning Scrutiny Select Committee and will be programmed into the meeting schedule.
- 1.2.4 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) – a request has been made to consider the shortfall in the MTFS and reflect on how we are going to meet the necessary savings. This will be programmed into the meeting schedule for the Finance, Regeneration and Property Scrutiny Select Committee.
- 1.2.5 Biodiversity / Climate Change issues – a request has been made to look at a variety of climate and biodiversity issues including solar/wind power on available plots of land, biodiversity audits, use of LED lighting, sustainable procurement, grants, and use of office space. This will be programmed into the meeting schedule of the Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee.
- 1.2.6 Leisure Trust – a request has been made to consider the value for money in relation to the Leisure Trust, looking at how much the Council has saved over the long term. This will be programmed into the Finance, Regeneration and Property Scrutiny Select Committee.
- 1.2.7 This Committee will also review annually the Revenue Estimates and the Capital Plan.
- 1.2.8 The proposed work programme (so far) for the main Overview and Scrutiny Committee is set out in the table below (in addition to those items listed, the standing item “Non-Key Decisions since last meeting” will be included for information):

Date of O&S Committee	Agenda Items
15 Sep 2022	Final Review - Planning Enforcement Scoping Report – Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Service Review
17 Nov 2022	Final Review - Mandatory/Non-Mandatory Services
26 Jan 2023	Revenue Estimates 2023/24 Capital Plan Review 2022/23

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 To be considered as part of each review.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 As above.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 N/A

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.7 Recommendations

1.7.1 That the review topics as set out in the report **BE ENDORSED**.

Background papers:

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Nil

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Chief Executive