

13 December 2022

Report of	Assistant Director – Corporate and Improvement Services	Author	Owen Howell ☎ 282518
Title	Work Programme 2022-23		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the current Work Programme 2022-2023 for the Scrutiny Panel. This provides details of the reports that are scheduled for each meeting during the municipal year.

2. Action Required

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to consider and approve the contents of the Work Programme for 2022-2023, or request amendments, additions and/or deletions.
- 2.2 The Panel is asked to approve two additional meeting dates from the choices of:
- 10 January 2023
 - 16 January 2023
 - 15 March 2023 - recommended

3. Background Information

- 3.1 The Panel's work programme evolves as the Municipal Year progresses and items of business are commenced and concluded. At each meeting the opportunity is taken for the work programme to be reviewed and, if necessary, amended according to current circumstances. The draft work programme for 2022-23 is appended to this report. This contains the items which are reviewed each year by the Panel.
- 3.2 The Panel have requested additional items relating to the Peer Review report (expected for January), the City Status programme/strategy (expected for March) and an item to investigate whether the Council can do anything to assist in efforts to reduce the backlogs existing within the courts system. Briefings from the Portfolio Holders for 'Neighbourhood Services and Waste' and 'Environment and Sustainability' have also yet to be scheduled. The Panel is asked to consider which two dates, from the three given above at 2.2, it wishes to approve for additional meetings at which these additional items and briefings will be scheduled, if possible.
- 3.3 The Forward Plan of Key Decisions is included as part of the work programme for the Scrutiny Panel, and this is included an **Appendix A**.

4. Standard References

- 4.1 There are no particular references to publicity or consultation considerations, or financial, equality, diversity, human rights, community safety, health and safety, environmental and sustainability or risk management implications.

5. Strategic Plan References

- 4.1 Scrutiny and challenge is integral to the delivery of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 priorities and direction for the Borough as set out under the strategic themes of:
- [Tackling the climate challenge and leading sustainability](#)
 - [Creating safe, healthy and active communities](#)
 - [Delivering homes for people who need them](#)
 - [Growing a fair economy so everyone benefits](#)
 - [Celebrating our heritage and culture](#)
- 4.2 The Council recognises that effective local government relies on establishing and maintaining the public's confidence, and that setting high standards of self-governance provides a clear and demonstrable lead. Effective governance underpins the implementation and application of all aspects of the Council's work.

Appendices

Appendix A – Scrutiny Panel Work Programme, 2022-23

Appendix B – Forward Plan of Key Decisions: 1 December 2022 – 31 March 2023

Work Programme for 2022/23

Scrutiny Panel meeting – 7 June 2022
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 1 June 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Town Deal Reporting 2. Work Programme 2022-23
Scrutiny Panel meeting – 5 July 2022
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 30 June 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council's disbursement of rebate payments on Council Tax 2. Year End 2021/22 Performance Report and Strategic Plan Action Plan 3. Housing Strategy 4. Annual Scrutiny Report 5. Briefing note on Hythe Flooding 6. Recap report on previous Scrutiny Panel reviews of local bus services 7. Work Programme 2022-23
Scrutiny Panel meeting – 16 August 2022 Meeting cancelled for lack of business
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 11 August 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work Programme 2022-23
Scrutiny Panel (Crime and Disorder Committee) - 13 September 2022
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 8 September 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safer Colchester Partnership (Crime and Disorder Committee)
Scrutiny Panel – 11 October 2022
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's Briefing – 6 October 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing from Cllr Julie Young, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities 2. Economic Growth Strategy Deferred 3. Review of Colchester Borough Homes: 2021-22 Performance, and discussion of Key Performance Indicator Targets for 2023-24 4. Work Programme 2022-23
Scrutiny Panel meeting - 8 November 2022
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 3 November 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Strategy for 2023-24 2. Update on Town Deal projects' progress 3. Family/local affiliation in letting and/or sale of local affordable housing and Gateway to Homechoice Allocations Policy 4. Work Programme 2022-23

Scrutiny Panel meeting - 13 December 2022
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 8 December 2022
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing by Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Local Economy and Transformation 2. Draft Economic Strategy [Was due to come before Scrutiny Panel on 16 August 2022 and then 11 October 2022 but delayed to 13 December 2022] 3. Half Year 2022-23 Performance Report 4. Strategic Plan Action Plan progress 5. Local Council Tax Support – Year 2023/24 6. Work Programme 2022-23
Scrutiny Panel meeting - 24 January 2023
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 19 January 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing by Portfolio Holder for Resources [focus on Budget 2023-24] 2. Budget Strategy for 2023-24 3. 2023-24 Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, Medium Term Financial Forecast and Treasury Management Investment Strategy 4. Housing Revenue Accounts Estimate and Housing Investment Programme 5. Town Deal projects progress report 6. Work Programme 2022-23
Scrutiny Panel - 14 February 2023
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 9 February 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing by Portfolio Holder for Culture and Heritage 2. Briefing by the Leader of the Council 3. Corporate Key Performance Indicator Targets for 2022-23 4. Work Programme 2022-23
Scrutiny Panel meeting– 14 March 2023
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 9 March 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing by Portfolio Holder for Planning and Infrastructure 2. Collection of Section 106 developer contributions 3. One Colchester Partnership 4. Scrutiny Panel Annual Report

Items still to schedule, when possible:

- Briefings from Portfolio Holders for 'Neighbourhood Services and Waste' and 'Environment and Sustainability.'
- Council negotiations with Alumno [Monitoring Officer advice is that this will only be able to be scrutinised in open session once the current ongoing legal situation is resolved regarding the Queen Street site]
- Planning trial of local prioritisation for property purchasing [relating to a recent planning application] [Officer advice is that this is at an early stage and is likely to need to wait until 2023-24 to be ready for meaningful scrutiny of scheme and outcomes]