



Scrutiny Panel

Item
17

13 February 2024

Report of	Chief Operating Officer	Author	Owen Howell ☎ 282518
Title	Work Programme 2023-24		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report sets out the current Work Programme 2023-2024 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 2023-2024, or request amendments, additions and/or deletions.

2.2 The Panel is asked to identify any additional specific issues, matters or areas of Council operations which it wishes to scrutinise during the 2023-24 municipal year, and to provisionally schedule these items, subject to feedback from relevant officers on any issues which may affect reporting timescales.

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 2023-24 is appended to this report. This contains the items which are reviewed each year by the Panel.

3.2 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

5.1 Scrutiny and challenge is integral to the delivery of the Strategic Plan 2023-2026 priorities and direction for the area as set out under the strategic themes of:

- Respond to the climate emergency;
- Deliver modern services for a modern city;
- Improve health, wellbeing and happiness;
- Deliver homes for those most in need;
- Grow our economy so everyone benefits;
- Celebrate our City, heritage and culture.

5.2 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, 2023-24

Appendix B – Forward Plan of Key Decisions - 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2024

Work Programme for 2023/24

Scrutiny Panel meeting – 6 June 2023
Scrutiny Panel Chairman’s briefing – 1 June 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Corporate Key Performance Indicator Targets for 2023-24 2. Work Programme 2023-24
Scrutiny Panel meeting – 4 July 2023
Scrutiny Panel Chairman’s briefing – 29 June 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Year End 2022/23 Performance Report and Strategic Plan Action Plan 2. Capita data breach 3. Work Programme 2023-24
Scrutiny Panel (Crime and Disorder Committee) - 19 September 2023
Scrutiny Panel Chairman’s briefing – 14 September 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safer Colchester Partnership (Crime and Disorder Committee)
Scrutiny Panel – 3 October 2023
Scrutiny Panel Chairman’s Briefing – 28 September 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portfolio Holder Briefing [Neighbourhood Services and Waste] 2. Portfolio Holder Briefing [Housing] 3. Work Programme 2023-24
Scrutiny Panel meeting - 14 November 2023
Scrutiny Panel Chairman’s briefing – 9 November 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portfolio Holder Briefing [Leader of the Council/Strategy] 2. Budget Strategy for 2024-25 3. Skills: How Able is Colchester to Develop the Skills Needed for the Future? 4. Work Programme 2023-24
Scrutiny Panel meeting - 12 December 2023
Scrutiny Panel Chairman’s briefing – 6 December 2023
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portfolio Holder Briefing [Economy, Transformation and Performance] 2. Half Year 2023-24 Performance Report 3. Key Performance Indicators Benchmarking Report 4. Strategic Plan Action Plan progress 5. Work Programme 2023-24

Scrutiny Panel meeting - 23 January 2024
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 18 January 2024
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portfolio Holder Briefing [Resources] 2. 2024-25 Revenue Budget, Capital Programme, Medium Term Financial Forecast, Treasury Management Investment Strategy, Housing Revenue Accounts Estimate and Housing Investment Programme 3. Business case for charging for the kerbside collection of garden waste 4. Work Programme 2023-24
Scrutiny Panel - 13 February 2024
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 8 February 2024
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portfolio Holder Briefing [Leisure, Culture and Heritage] 2. Corporate Key Performance Indicator Targets for 2024-25. 3. Arts Organisations receiving Council funding 4. Middle Mill Weir: repair and future [Interim report] 5. 'Fit for the Future' programme 6. Council's approach and policy towards the use of owned community assets and whether to charge for use 7. Asset Management Strategy 8. Work Programme 2023-24
Scrutiny Panel meeting– 12 March 2024
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 7 March 2024
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Portfolio Holder Briefing [Communities] 2. Portfolio Holder Briefing [Planning, Environment and Sustainability] 3. Local Highways Panel 4. Middle Mill Weir: repair and future 5. Town Deal projects progress report 6. Impact Evaluation of City Status 7. Scrutiny Panel Annual Report 8. Work Programme 2023-24
Scrutiny Panel (Crime and Disorder Committee) – 18 March 2024
Scrutiny Panel Chairman's briefing – 14 March 2024
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Safer Colchester Partnership (Crime and Disorder Committee)

Items still to schedule, when possible:

- Previous 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 likely to need to wait until it is ready for meaningful scrutiny of scheme and outcomes, expected at some point in 2023-24]