



# **NORWICH** City Council

**Committee Name: Scrutiny**

**Committee Date: 09/06/2022**

**Report Title: Scrutiny work programme 2022-23**

**Portfolio:** Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources

**Report from:** Executive director of community services

**Wards:** All Wards

## **OPEN PUBLIC ITEM**

### **Purpose:**

To assist scrutiny committee members in setting the scrutiny committee work programme for 2022/23.

### **Recommendation:**

That members agree a realistic and deliverable scrutiny committee work programme for 2022-23.

### **Policy Framework:**

The council has five corporate priorities, which are:

- People live independently and well in a diverse and safe city.
- Norwich is a sustainable and healthy city.
- Norwich has the infrastructure and housing it needs to be a successful city.
- The city has an inclusive economy in which residents have equal opportunity to flourish.
- Norwich City Council is in good shape to serve the city.

This report helps to meet the priority 'Norwich is in good shape to serve the city'.

This report helps to meet the adopted policies of the council.

This report helps to meet the objectives of the COVID-19 Recovery Plan.

## Report Details

### Developing a work programme for the scrutiny committee

1. When the scrutiny committee considers which items to include on the work programme, it is useful to do so in the context of what the focus is for the council over the coming year and to look at how activity aligns to the council's corporate plan, policies and the COVID-19 recovery plan.
2. This allows the scrutiny committee to identify how it can add value to work being carried out toward the corporate priorities and to ensure that resources are focussed effectively.
3. Scrutiny members were asked to send their TOPIC forms with items for consideration for work programme for the new civic year to the scrutiny liaison officer by 17 May 2022. These were discussed at an informal meeting of the scrutiny committee on 26 May 2022 and those discussions are summarised below.
4. The following TOPIC forms were presented by a member of the committee and discussed in groups at the informal workshop on 26 May 2022:
  - Anti-social behaviour (ASB) as linked to housing and council's role
  - Communal bins and Fly-tipping
  - County Lines drug dealing, drug addiction and vulnerable women and girls
  - Debt advice and support and debt recovery
  - Impact of growing domestic abuse in the city, particularly since Covid-19, and how the city council responds to this working with partners
  - Looking after estates / estate aesthetics
  - Financing for renewable energy / energy efficiency
  - Investigate how far the government's 'Levelling Up' agenda has delivered to narrow inequality and barriers to opportunity within the city alongside existing strategies of the city council
  - Transforming Cities Fund (TCF)
  - Welcoming refugees into Norwich and overcoming obstacles to their smooth integration
5. The findings of the communal bins and Fly-tipping select committee would be brought to the July meeting of the scrutiny committee.
6. The consensus was that the 'debt advice and support and debt recovery' topic should be taken at the September meeting due to OFGEM's most recent comments that the October price cap for energy would likely rise by £800.
7. Members also agreed that the topic of Anti-Social Behaviour should be taken at the October meeting to help feed into the development and adoption of the new community safety strategy with some groups commenting that this should include information around County Lines, as a lot of anti-social behaviour within the city had been driven by drug taking and associated behaviours.

8. Groups also agreed that the 'Financing for renewable energy/energy efficiency' would be best taken at the November meeting so that any recommendations could be feed into the budget setting process for 2023-24.
9. Overall members felt that the topic of domestic abuse should be taken forward into the work programme for the committee but there was no agreement as to which meeting it should be taken to. As the council was working towards accreditation, some members thought that pre scrutiny of this work would be beneficial in the autumn whilst others thought that taking this topic to the March meeting would allow for the planned work to be completed by the target date.
10. Members agreed that the 'Transforming Cities Fund' topic could be delayed due to projects not yet having been completed. If information became available it would be worthwhile to request briefings to be kept up to date with any developments.
11. Generally, members agreed that the 'Levelling Up' Agenda topic would be helpful to have as member briefings once bids had been submitted.
12. Regarding the 'Welcoming Refugees' topic, members felt that this could be best placed with a select committee that could ask partners to conduct research and to hear from a range of individuals and organisations to ensure that the committee is able to properly make recommendations and consolidate best practice. A final report would be taken to the March meeting.
13. Members agreed that a briefing on the estate aesthetic programme would be beneficial in the first instance to gather information and decide if this could be taken forward as a piece of scrutiny work at a later date.

### **Recurring items**

14. There are certain areas of work identified for the scrutiny committee that are of a recurring nature. Presently, these are the scrutiny committee work programme (each meeting), Equality Information Report (December), Corporate Plan refresh (January) pre-scrutiny of the proposed budget (February) and the annual review of the scrutiny committee (March).
15. At the committee meeting on 21 October 2021 it was agreed to add updates from the councils climate commission as a recurring item, although dates for these items have yet to be identified.
16. Updates are also received regularly from the council's representatives on the Norfolk County Health and Overview Committee (NHOSC) and the on the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny sub panel (NCCSPSSP).
17. Based on these discussions, a draft work programme is attached at appendix A which also takes account of those recurring items. Scrutiny members are asked to consider this draft programme and set a realistic and deliverable scrutiny committee work programme for 2022-23.

18. It is suggested that members consider allocating an item for the June scrutiny committee meeting of the next civic year to ensure that the work of the committee can continue in the early part of each civic year.

### **Consultation**

19. All political groups are represented on the scrutiny committee. The portfolio holder will be briefed as part of the regular portfolio holder briefing process.

### **Implications**

#### **Financial and Resources**

20. Any decision to reduce or increase resources or alternatively increase income must be made within the context of the council's stated priorities, as set out in its Corporate Plan 2022-26 and Budget.

21. Any impact on resources resulting from this report will be accommodated within existing budgets or the relevant approvals will be sought if additional budget is required.

### **Legal**

22. No specific legal advice has been sought or provided.

### **Statutory Considerations**

<b>Consideration</b>	<b>Details of any implications and proposed measures to address:</b>
Equality and Diversity	None at this stage
Health, Social and Economic Impact	None at this stage
Crime and Disorder	None at this stage
Children and Adults Safeguarding	None at this stage
Environmental Impact	None at this stage

### **Risk Management**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Controls Required</b>
None at this stage		

### **Other Options Considered**

23. There have been no other options considered for this report.

### **Reasons for the decision/recommendation**

24. This report will allow scrutiny to set and review the work programme for scrutiny for 2022-23.

**Background papers:** none

**Appendices:** Draft work programme – Appendix A

**Contact Officer:** Lucy Palmer, Democratic Team Leader,

## Appendix A

Date of meeting Thursday at 4.30	Agenda items
<b>2022</b>	
<b>9 June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• Appointment of scrutiny committee Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Appointment to external committees</li> <li>• Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NHOSC) report from meeting held on 12 May</li> <li>• Draft terms of Reference for select committees</li> </ul>
<b>30 June</b>	Scrutiny training – online, using Zoom
<b>14 July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• Verbal update on NHOSC meeting held 14 July am</li> <li>• Update from the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Sub Panel (NCCSPSP) meeting held on 09 June</li> <li>• Communal bins and Fly-tipping</li> </ul>
<b>15 September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• Update on NHOSC meeting held on 8 September</li> <li>• Debt advice and support and debt recovery</li> </ul>
<b>13 October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• Update from the NCCSPSP meeting held on 22 September</li> <li>• Anti-social behaviour (ASB) as linked to housing and council's role (including County Lines)</li> </ul>
<b>10 November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• Verbal update on NHOSC meeting held 10 November am</li> <li>• Financing for renewable energy / energy efficiency</li> </ul>
<b>8 December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• <b>Equality information report</b></li> <li>• <b>Norwich City Services Limited and Norwich Regeneration Ltd business plans</b></li> <li>• Verbal update from the NCCSPSP meeting held on 8 December am.</li> </ul>
<b>2023</b>	
<b>19 January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• Verbal update on NHOSC meeting held 19 January am.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Corporate Plan Refresh</b></li> </ul>
<b>2 February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• <b>Pre-scrutiny of the Council's budget 2023-24</b></li> </ul>
<b>16 March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work programme</li> <li>• Annual review of scrutiny committee</li> <li>• Verbal update on NHOSC meeting held 14 July am.</li> <li>• Welcoming refugees into Norwich and overcoming obstacles to their smooth integration</li> </ul>

Members Briefings to be arranged for the following topics:

- Investigate how far the government's 'Levelling Up' agenda has delivered to narrow inequality and barriers to opportunity within the city alongside existing strategies of the city council
- Looking after estates and estate aesthetics