



Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group

A meeting of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group will be held at the Virtual Meeting Via Zoom on Monday 18 July 2022 at 6.00 pm

Agenda

1.	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members
2.	Declarations of Interest Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.
3.	Minutes (Pages 7 - 10) To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 May 2022.
4.	Chair's Announcements To receive communications from the Chair.
5.	Waste Management Contract - Joint Scrutiny
6.	Highways and Transport Contract
7.	Review of OSC Committee Work Plans (Pages 11 - 40) To review and note the Committee Work Plans from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee ▪ People Overview & Scrutiny Committee ▪ Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

8.	OSC Committee Updates The Chairs of the OSC Committees to provide an update on the work of their respective committees.
9.	Urgent Business The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.
10.	Exclusion of Press and Public In respect of the following items the Chair may move the resolution set out below, on the grounds that if the press and public were present it would be likely that exempt information (information regarded as private for the purposes of the Government Act 1972) would be disclosed to them: The Committee is requested to resolve: "That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that, if the press and public were present, it would be likely that exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act of the descriptions against each item would be disclosed to them."

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
11 July 2022

Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group Members:

Councillor Dermot Bambridge

Councillor Karen Cooper

Councillor Jo Gilford

Councillor Andrew Grant

Councillor Rosie Herring

Councillor Ian McCord

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare that fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

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Queries Regarding this Agenda

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Richard Woods, Democratic Services via the following:

Tel: 01327 322043

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

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Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group

Minutes of a meeting of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group held as a Virtual Meeting Via Zoom on Wednesday 25 May 2022 at 4.30 pm.

Present Councillor Dermot Bambridge (Chair)
 Councillor Jo Gilford
 Councillor Andrew Grant
 Councillor Ian McCord

Apologies Councillor Karen Cooper
for Councillor Rosie Herring
Absence:

Officers James Edmunds, Democratic Services Assistant Manager
 Tracy Tiff, Deputy Democratic Services Manager
 Richard Woods, Democratic Services Officer

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Group held on 22 March 2022 were agreed as a correct record to be signed in due course.

4. Chair's Announcements

There were no announcements from the Chair.

5. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

6. Format of the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Reports

In discussing the format of the respective Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Reports, the Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group agreed that there would be no changes to the format of the reports following on from the previous municipal year (the format used for the annual report of the Shadow Overview and Scrutiny

Committee) and commented that the existing format allowed for clarity in presentation and was in an accessible and acceptable format for the public.

Members of the Group agreed that the Annual Reports should highlight the key achievements of each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, along with an overview of the scrutiny activities undertaken by each Committee during the 2021-22 municipal year.

Resolved

- (1) That it be agreed that the Annual Reports of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees are produced in the same format to that of the annual report that was produced for the shadow O&S Committee in March 2021.

7. Work Programming Consultation Process 2022-2023

The Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group considered a report from the Deputy Democratic Services Manager which recommended that the group considers the draft consultation for the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming process.

In introducing the report, the Deputy Democratic Services Manager explained that one of Overview and Scrutiny's key roles was to undertake focussed work programming to ensure that Scrutiny contributes actively to the Council's objectives. In order for this to be achieved, the Deputy Democratic Services Manager explained that each of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees could hold individual work programming events, as they had done in the previous municipal year, in order to maximise inclusivity in the work programming process.

In response to questions from Members regarding how potential areas of future scrutiny activity could be identified in the work programming process, the Deputy Democratic Services Manager advised that Executive Directors and Assistant Directors could be invited to attend the work programming events and advise on suggestions for future areas of scrutiny activity, and whether such areas were already under review within service areas.

The Overview and Scrutiny Coordinating Group discussed the Overview and Scrutiny work programmes and the work programming consultation process for 2022. The Group agreed that rather than go out to public consultation regarding suggestions for scrutiny topics as was done last year, it may be more useful to consider a survey that measures what the residents think about the services of the Council and where any potential areas for improvement have been recognised. From such a survey, areas could be identified where the Overview and Scrutiny function could help alleviate any issues, for example measurement on performance of the Council as a whole. The Group agreed that it be suggested to the Leader of the Council that an IPSOS-style survey is undertaken, however, there have been other surveys undertaken recently, such as the "Big Conversation", and upon reflection the results of this survey could be useful in informing the work programmes of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Last year, Cabinet Members attended informal meetings of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees and provided information on their priorities for the year. The Group acknowledged the importance of receiving input on the Cabinet's priorities for the year to inform the work programmes and potential pre decision scrutiny. It was agreed that the Leader is asked if he could provide details of any forthcoming issues that are due to be received by Cabinet, that may perhaps not be listed as yet on the Council's forward plan that could be suggested to Overview and Scrutiny for pre-decision scrutiny.

Members of the Group requested that the minutes of the Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group be circulated to all Councillors to ensure that all Members could be kept apprised of the ongoing oversight and management of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny functions.

Resolved

- (1) That, as part of the draft consultation for the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programming Process, the Overview and Scrutiny Committees be recommended to consider a survey that measures what local residents think about the services of the Council and where any potential areas for improvement have been recognised, in order to identify future areas of scrutiny activity.
- (2) That it be recommended to the Leader of the Council that an IPSOS-style survey be undertaken in order to measure the public's priorities for scrutiny activity, with the results utilised to inform the work programmes of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- (3) That the Leader of the Council be requested to provide details of any forthcoming issues that are due to be received by Cabinet, that may perhaps not be listed as yet on the Council's forward plan that could be suggested to Overview and Scrutiny for pre-decision scrutiny.
- (4) That the minutes of the Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group be circulated to all Councillors.

The meeting closed at 5.22 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____

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	Topic identified and scheduled
	Topic identified but not yet scheduled
	Topic completed

Title	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member and Executive Director	Proposed Task and Finish Group	Comments
People Strategy	To provide scrutiny input to the 50 key actions contained within the People Strategy	10 May 2022 4 July 2022	Cabinet Member for HR & Corporate Services Executive Director – Corporate Services and Assistant Director – Human Resources	No - Whole Committee	The Committee to provide scrutiny input into the People Strategy
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022	The Committee to consider its Annual Report 2021/2022 for submission to full Council for information	4 July 2022	The Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee	No	

Expenses Policy	To review the Council's expenses policy	4 July 2022 – The Task and Finish Group to present its scope (Terms of reference) for consideration by the Committee.	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	Yes	A Task and Finish Group will carry out a short sharp review. This Task and Finish Group held its inaugural meeting on 20 June 2022.
Treasury Management	To scrutinise treasury management focusing on efficiencies – forward looking	15 March 2022 – The Committee to set up a Task and Finish Group to undertake this scrutiny activity Prior to the setting up of the Task and Finish Group a briefing will be scheduled on Treasury management that will provide important information to Councillors. ACTIONED. The Task and Finish Group will commence in June 2022	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	Yes	A Task and Finish Group will carry out a review. The Task and Finish Group will commence in June 2022 and present its scope to the meeting of the committee on 4 July 2022
Modernising Systems	The Committee to receive information regarding systems at the Council and to consider their value for money	15 March 2022 - A report to the Committee providing background information, to assist the committee in deciding how it will undertake scrutiny activity Modernising Systems Inquiry day(s) have been programmed from September 2022 onwards Reports to Committee November 2022 onwards	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	To be confirmed	The meeting on 15 March 2022 comprised a comprehensive question and answer session (Scrutiny Inquiry) to inform a potential scrutiny review.

Quarterly Budget Monitoring Reports	The Committee to receive regular budget monitoring reports at its meetings	5 September 16 January 2023	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	No	To receive a quarterly budget monitoring report which will inform the budget scrutiny role of this Committee.
Quarterly reports on the MTFP	The Committee to receive regular MTFP monitoring reports at its meetings	5 September 2022 16 January 2023	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	No	To receive a quarterly budget MTFP report which will inform the budget scrutiny role of this Committee.
Performance Monitoring Report	The Committee to consider the Performance Monitoring Report to inform Performance Management Scrutiny	5 September 2022 16 January 2023	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	No	

Performance Management Scrutiny	The Committee to undertake Performance Management Scrutiny	5 September 7 November 16 January 2023 6 March	Executive Director Finance and relevant Cabinet Members dependent upon the key performance indicator to be reviewed	No	The Committee will consider the performance monitoring report and undertake performance management scrutiny of specific indicators at these meetings.
The Children's Trust Budget	The Committee to receive a briefing on the Children's Trust budget	15 September 2021 Further meeting TBC To consider the Business Plan for the Children's Trust	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	No but following the briefing the Committee may consider setting up a Task and Finish Group	The Committee received a briefing on the Children's Trust Budget at its September 2021 meeting and resolved to receive the business plan for scrutiny input at a future meeting
Budget Scrutiny	The Committee to confirm its budget scrutiny process and undertake budget scrutiny of the Council's budget 2023/24	Date to be confirmed	Executive Director for Finance	No	

Asset Management	To undertake scrutiny activity of asset management	<p>15 March 2022 - The Committee to set up a Task and Finish Group to undertake this scrutiny activity</p> <p>A presentation to be given to the Committee at its meeting 10 May 2022 and from there the Committee will consider Scrutiny work into this issue.</p> <p>Date to be confirmed: The Sustainability Working Group is asked to report back to a future meeting regarding the alignment of workstreams around the development of the new Asset Management Plan to the Corporate Plan and the Council's commitment to carbon neutrality.</p>	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	To be confirmed	It was resolved that the Sustainability Working Group is asked to report back to a future meeting regarding the alignment of workstreams around the development of the new Asset Management Plan to the Corporate Plan and the Council's commitment to carbon neutrality.
Transformation Projects	The Committee to review transformation projects: Definition of the Transformation Projects Spend on transformation Savings	Meeting dates in 2022 to be confirmed	Director – Transformation Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	No	
Social Values Act 2013	The Committee to receive a briefing on the Social Values Act 2013	<p>15 September 2021</p> <p>15 March 2022 – Further information to be provided to the Committee, and the representative leading on social value to be invited to address the Committee</p>	To be determined	No but following the briefing the Committee may consider setting up a Task and Finish Group	The Committee to receive a briefing on the Social Values Act 2013 and the procurement of contracts, contract management and social value to enable Members to decide on how it will undertake further scrutiny activity on that topic.

Contract management and procurement	To receive a presentation on contract monitoring and procurement and the links into Social Value	15 September 2021	Executive Director Finance and Head of Procurement	No	Highlighted at the first meeting as an area of interest with particular reference to social value The Committee noted the presentation with a view to it being background information in respect of any future work on Social
Work Programming Event	The Committee to confirm the date for its Work Programming event	15 September 2021	Executive Director for Finance Cabinet Members to be invited to the work programme event	No	COMPLETED Taken place
Schools Budgets	To receive a briefing on the way schools need funding and how this is calculated	15 November 2021	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	Not at the meeting on 15 November 2021, The Committee may consider setting up a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review of school's budgets	The meeting on 15 November 2021 will comprise a comprehensive question and answer session (Scrutiny Inquiry) to inform a potential scrutiny review. The Committee noted the presentation and agreed that Cllrs Aziz and Traasiewicz attend all

Draft West Northamptonshire Council budget 2022-2023	To provide scrutiny input into the draft budget	<p>15 November 2021 – briefing on the budget process was provided</p> <p>12 January 2022; and further additional meetings of the Committee to be scheduled as required.</p> <p>COMPLETED</p>	Cabinet Member for Finance Executive Director for Finance	To be confirmed	Budget scrutiny is a key role of this Committee. The Committee could decide on which budgets it would scrutinise in-depth at a later meeting (to be set)
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Potential cross-cutting themes for the Scrutiny Committees

Topic	Proposed purpose	Committees to be involved in this review	Cabinet Member and Executive Director	Proposed Task and Finish Group	Comments
Highways Contract	The Committee, together with Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the highways contract	Corporate and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	Meeting of Place OSC on 28 June 2022, with Corporate OSC to undertake joint Scrutiny of this item
Major Contracts and Capital Contracts	The Committee together with Place and People Scrutiny Committees to undertake scrutiny of major contracts of the Council including the Children's Trust	Corporate, People and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	
Housing	The Committee, together with Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee to undertake scrutiny activity of the housing costs and social value	Corporate and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committees	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting dates in 2022/23

- 4 July 2022
- 5 September
- 7 November
- 16 January 2023
- 6 March

Development of Overview and Scrutiny work programmes for 2022/23

NB: The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group considered the process to be used to develop Overview and Scrutiny work programmes at a meeting on 25 May 2022. The Group agreed that rather than go out to public consultation about suggestions for scrutiny topics as in 2021/22 it could be more useful to consider a survey of residents’ views about Council services. This would enable areas to be identified where Overview and Scrutiny might help to alleviate issues. The Group also agreed that Cabinet Members should be asked to provide details of forthcoming issues within their portfolios that might be subject to pre-decision scrutiny. The chairs of the three Overview and Scrutiny committees have written to the Leader of the Council to progress these matters.

NB: The Committee resolved at its meeting on 15 November 2021: Given due consideration to the carried motions relevant to the remit of Corporate OSC be noted.

West Northamptonshire Council

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

	Topic identified and scheduled
	Topic identified but not yet scheduled
	Topic completed

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Task and Finish Group	Comments
Northamptonshire children's services performance	The Committee to receive an update on performance against key targets and the continuing development of children's services.	21 June 2022	Chief Executive, Children's Trust	No	The Committee has also identified the way in which children's services contributes with other services to dealing with cross-cutting issues as a potential future topic for scrutiny.
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22	The Committee to consider the Annual Report on its activity in 2021/22, for submission to Full Council.	21 June 2022	NA	No	
Task and finish scrutiny review: child and adolescent mental health and the risk of self-harm	To approve the final report of the scrutiny review.	15 September 2022	NA	Yes	The scrutiny panel is meeting during January – August 2022 in order to deliver the agreed purpose of the scrutiny review.
Integrated Care across Northamptonshire (iCAN)	The Committee to scrutinise progress made with the development of iCAN and the position on key risk factors.	21 September 2021 – A task and finish panel has been set up and will conclude its review in 2022/23	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	Yes	The task and finish panel will meet 6 times from January 2022 to April 2023, aligned to iCAN contract gateway review points, to scrutinise delivery of iCAN programme outcomes.

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Task and Finish Group	Comments
Adult Social Care social worker recruitment and retention	The Committee to scrutinise the latest position, focussing on posts supporting the delivery of statutory social care services.	15 September 2022	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	
Special educational needs and disability (SEND) support	The Committee to consider an update on the development of SEND support, to include performance against the timescale for completing Education, Health and Care Plan assessments.	15 September 2022	Director of Children's Services Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education	No	
West Northamptonshire Council Housing Strategy – outcomes from public consultation	The Committee to consider the outcomes of public consultation on the proposed Strategy.	To be confirmed – the timescale for presentation of the proposed Strategy to the Cabinet has changed since scrutiny in March 2022. Clarification is being sought about scheduling the further scrutiny sought by the Committee.	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	A workshop style remote meeting will be used.	The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group considered potential cross-cutting scrutiny topics on 22 March 2022. It agreed that scrutiny of the Housing Strategy should be open to members of all three Overview and Scrutiny committees.
West Northamptonshire Council Housing Strategy – draft Strategy	The Committee to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the full draft Strategy.	To be confirmed – the timescale for presentation of the proposed Strategy to the Cabinet has changed since scrutiny in March 2022. Clarification is being sought about scheduling the further scrutiny sought by the Committee.	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	A workshop style remote meeting will be used.	The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group considered potential cross-cutting scrutiny topics on 22 March 2022. It agreed that scrutiny of the Housing Strategy should be open to members of all three Overview and Scrutiny committees.

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Task and Finish Group	Comments
Healthwatch West Northamptonshire work in 2021/22	The Committee to invite Healthwatch West Northamptonshire to give an overview of issues identified through its work in 2021/22.	To be confirmed	Healthwatch West Northamptonshire representatives	No	The Committee proposed to scrutinise this topic on 25 April 2022. A Healthwatch Northamptonshire (HWN) representative was not able to attend on this date. HWN has proposed that this topic could be best scheduled following publication of HWN's Annual Report for 2021/22 on 30 June 2022.
School performance	The Committee to invite the Regional Director to discuss school performance in relation to academy schools in West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed – potentially 25 October 2022 / 8 December 2022	Director of Children's Services Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education	No	The Committee has sought to schedule this item earlier in 2022 but the Regional Schools Commissioner (retitled Regional Director from mid-2022) could not attend the Committee meetings on 25 April, 21 June and 15 September 2022.
Housing Solutions Transformation Plan	The Committee to consider an overview of the transformation plan for the Housing Solutions function	To be confirmed – 15 September 2022 is proposed to fit in with the project timescale	Director of Communities & Opportunities	No	
Communities & Opportunities Directorate key contracts and delivery plans	The Committee to consider the Directorate's key contracts and associated delivery plans	To be confirmed – 25 October 2022 suggested	Director of Communities & Opportunities	No	
Housing Allocation Policy	The Committee to consider the Housing Allocation policy for West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed – 8 December 2022 suggested	Director of Communities & Opportunities	No	

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Task and Finish Group	Comments
Sports and Leisure needs assessment	The Committee to consider the needs assessment for sports and leisure provision in West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed – 8 December 2022 suggested	Director of Communities & Opportunities	The Committee has previously identified wider issues relating to sports and leisure provision as a potential topic for an in-depth scrutiny review.	
West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy	The Committee to scrutinise the outcomes delivered by the Anti-Poverty Strategy in the first year after it is adopted.	To be confirmed – subject to the timing of the Anti-Poverty Strategy Annual Report.	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	The Committee will seek to scrutinise the substance of the Annual Report two months before it is presented to Full Council.
Provision of free broadband to young people leaving local authority care.	The Committee to provide scrutiny input into the potential development of proposals by West Northamptonshire Council.	To be confirmed	Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education	To be confirmed	The Full Council meeting on 23 September 2021 referred a motion on this topic to the Committee, to consider the issues involved.
Rough sleeping	The Committee to provide scrutiny input on responses to rough sleeping in West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	To be confirmed	The Committee has identified the following potential focus areas for scrutiny: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the potential to continue to apply the principles of the ‘everyone in’ approach used during the COVID-19 pandemic severe weather shelter provision.

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Task and Finish Group	Comments
Support for people living with dementia	The Committee to scrutinise how well people living with dementia are supported in West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	To be confirmed	The Committee has identified that work on this topic might take as a starting point the response to the Northampton Borough Council scrutiny review on dementia-friendly communities.
Sports and leisure provision	Scrutiny of how West Northamptonshire Council works together with other service providers and community groups to provide the best overall offer to residents from all parts of the community.	To be confirmed – early 2022/23	Director of Communities & Opportunities	The Committee to consider setting up a task and finish panel to carry out an in-depth scrutiny review.	The Committee considers that this work could be an example of scrutiny on the wider theme of the community impact of Council services: looking at how the Council identifies needs, other support available in the community that help to meet them, and can therefore focus resources to have the most impact.
Integrated Care System / Integrated Care across Northamptonshire (iCAN)	The Committee to receive an overview of the aims of the Northamptonshire ICS and iCAN, and plans for implementation.	20 July 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	No	The Northamptonshire Integrated Care System is likely to be a continuing area for scrutiny in future.
Residential and nursing care for older people	The Committee to receive an overview of current provision and planning towards meeting future needs.	20 July 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing	No	

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Task and Finish Group	Comments
West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy	The Committee to receive an update on progress with the development of the Strategy.	21 September 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	
Northamptonshire children's services performance	The Committee to receive an update on the Ofsted monitoring visit in July 2021 that will focus on children with child protection plans and with children in need plans.	21 September 2021	Director of Children's Services Chief Executive, Children's Trust	No	
Residential and nursing care for older people	The Committee to scrutinise trends relating to performance and capacity of current care homes.	16 November 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	
Adult Social Care transformation	The Committee to scrutinise outcomes from the implementation of the Adult Social Care Target Operating Model (TOM)	16 November 2021	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	
Northamptonshire children's services performance	The Committee to receive an update covering the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional measures to further improve recruitment and retention of social workers 	25 January 2022	Director of Children's Services Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education Chief Executive, Children's Trust	No	

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Task and Finish Group	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving consistently good quality practice for all children, supported by full implementation of the practice model Outcomes of the Ofsted monitoring visit due to take place in November 2021.				
School improvement	The Committee to receive an overview of activity by West Northamptonshire Council to support school improvement.	25 January 2022	Director of Children's Services Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education	No	
Special educational needs and disability (SEND) support and alternative provision	The Committee to receive an overview of SEND support and alternative provision (education outside school arranged by the local authority or schools) in West Northamptonshire.	25 January 2022	Director of Children's Services Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education	No	
Healthwatch function	The Committee to receive a briefing paper giving an overview of the Healthwatch function in Northamptonshire.	25 January 2022	NA	No	
West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy	The Committee to receive an update on progress with the adoption and implementation of the Strategy.	1 March 2022	Executive Director Adults, Communities and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Care, Wellbeing and Health Integration	No	

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of Committee meeting	Cabinet Member / Executive Director / other senior leader	Task and Finish Group	Comments
West Northamptonshire Council Housing Strategy	The Committee to provide scrutiny input in the developing Housing Strategy.	1 March 2022 – The Committee to hold a separate workshop-style session following its formal meeting.	Assistant Director Housing and Communities	No	

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting dates in 2022/23

21 June 2022	13 December 2022
15 September 2022	21 February 2023
25 October 2022	24 April 2023

Development of Overview and Scrutiny work programmes for 2022/23

The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group considered the process to be used to develop Overview and Scrutiny work programmes at a meeting on 25 May 2022. The Group agreed that rather than go out to public consultation about suggestions for scrutiny topics as in 2021/22 it could be more useful to consider a survey of residents' views about Council services. This would enable areas to be identified where Overview and Scrutiny might help to alleviate issues. The Group also agreed that Cabinet Members should be asked to provide details of forthcoming issues within their portfolios that might be subject to pre-decision scrutiny. The chairs of the three Overview and Scrutiny committees have written to the Leader of the Council to progress these matters.

Place Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-2023

	Topic identified and scheduled
	Topic identified but not yet scheduled
	Topic completed

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of meeting	Cabinet Member and Executive Director	Proposed Task and Finish Group	Committee's comments
Highways and Transport Contract	To have an overview, within the constraints of the contract Joint Scrutiny with Corporate OSC .	31 August 2021 (taken place) Date: 28 June 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Finance and Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	To be confirmed.	Joint Scrutiny - Place OSC and Corporate OSC to take place at the meeting on 28 June 2022.
UK Levelling Up Fund Round 2	The Committee to provide Scrutiny input into the levelling up fund round 2	Date: 28 June 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth:	No	
Communities and Opportunities Directorate	The Committee to receive a presentation regarding the Communities and Opportunities Directorate and how Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee can have an input into its work.	date: 17 May 2022 Further report to the meeting on 12 September 2022 , in particular around partnership working and how this is evolving and	Director for Communities and Opportunities and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	TBC	

		community hubs and what they consist of and deliver			
The Council's Tree Policy	To provide Scrutiny input into the Council's draft Tree Policy for West Northamptonshire Regular updates to be provided to the Committee by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group	31 August 2021 – A Task and Finish Group has been set up and will conclude its review in May 2022 To report to the meeting of the Committee: 12 September	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	Yes	Task and Finish Group set up and due to complete its review in July 2022 and report to Committee at its September meeting
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022	The Committee to consider its Annual Report for 2021/2022 for submission to full Council	Date: 12 September 2022	The Chair of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee	No	
Northampton Town Plan (planning and growth including other main town progress /Review		31 January 2022 (taken place) Further report and Scrutiny input to the Committee at its meeting on 12 September 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	The Committee to consider setting up a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review of congestion, including parking and incorporating consideration of air quality and options for sustainable transport / active travel	The Task and Finish Group could scope its Review at its inaugural meeting and present its Terms of Reference (scope) to the meeting of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 December 2021 for approval Update: An update on the progress of the Northampton Town Plan would be brought to the Committee at a future meeting. (Meeting 12 September 2022)
WNC waste strategy	The Committee to set up an Oversight Group to look over various waste issues. The Group would begin to meet after September 2022 onwards.	date: 12 September 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	Yes, an Oversight Group will be set up	

Active Travel	To provide scrutiny input to enable WNC to progress its plans for active travel	29 March 2022 (taken place) The Oversight Group will provide further information to the meetings of the Committee – to be scheduled	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	Yes, this work would take around 6- 12 months.	Information gathering to be provided to the Committee at its meeting on 29 March 2022 and a Task and Finish Group to be inaugurated. Councillor Bagott- Webb to Chair.
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny	The Committee to receive a performance report from the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	26 January 2022 (taken place) 13 February 2023	Chair of the Community Safety Partnership and Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement, and Regulatory Services Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment		To receive a report from the Chair of the CSP each year.
Flood Risk Management	The Committee to undertake scrutiny of the Flood Risk Management Strategy	31 January 2022 (taken place) 13 February 2023	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste		To include information how West Northamptonshire Council works with Homes England
Fly tipping	To provide scrutiny input into the draft fly-tipping policy that will aim to harmonise cleansing standards across WNC & boost enforcement action	29 March 2022 (taken place) 18 April 2023 - The Committee to receive information on progress on actions outlined in the action Plan	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	The Committee to receive the draft fly-tipping policy for scrutiny input.	The Committee could consider the reporting mechanisms, clearance and enforcement when providing input Completed 2/3/22 18/4/23 The Committee to receive information on progress on actions outlined in the action Plan

Items to be scheduled

Libraries	The Cabinet Member and Assistant Director to provide a briefing to the Committee on the Council's policy regarding libraries	date: 17 May 2022 completed Further report to be received at a meeting early in 2023 for the Committee to undertake pre-Scrutiny on the Library Strategy	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	No	From the briefing the Committee will decide how it can undertake scrutiny activity into this topic Pre scrutiny of the Library Strategy to be undertaken at a meeting early in 2023
Sustainability Strategy	To provide Scrutiny input into the Sustainability Strategy	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	To be confirmed	
West Northamptonshire Travel/Infrastructure Strategy	To provide scrutiny input into the Strategy, including footpath and cycleways, timescales and funding	To be confirmed	Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	To be confirmed	
Assets Strategy	To provide scrutiny input into the Assets Strategy	To be confirmed	Leader of the Council – Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment & Rural Affairs Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	To be confirmed	
Economic Strategy	The Committee to consider the Council's Economic Strategy	To be confirmed	Leader of the Council	To be confirmed	

			Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment		
The Council's Carbon Programme	The Committee to review the Council's Carbon Programme	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	To be confirmed	It is Important that the Carbon programme does not conflict with air quality – low emissions approach favoured. The Committee may want to consider an 'internal' carbon review and separately an 'external' review The internal review would concentrate on buildings, fleet, WNC-own energy, procurement and (probably) ICT.
Performance Monitoring Report	The Committee to consider the Performance Monitoring Report to inform Performance Management Scrutiny	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	No	Performance Monitoring Reports will be taken from the Cabinet agenda for Place Scrutiny to consider
Performance Management Scrutiny	The Committee to undertake Performance Management Scrutiny	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment and relevant Cabinet Members dependent upon the key performance indicator to be reviewed	No	

Broadband Contract	To monitor and review the broadband contract	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment & Rural Affairs		
COMPLETED ITEMS					
St James Bus Lane	To scrutinise the decision to make the St James bus lane 24/7 enforcement with CCTV	Councillor Julie Davenport, Place Committee Member	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	No	COMPLETE. No further action – Committee agreed this item would not be included onto its Work Programme 2021/22
NPH/WNC - responsibility for environmental issues	The Committee to consider and provide scrutiny input into the issues with responsibility of grass cutting and rubbish clearing	People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	No	COMPLETE. No further action – Committee agreed this item would not be included onto its Work Programme 2021/22
Proposed development – Northampton railway station car park	To provide scrutiny input into the proposed development - Northampton railway car park	Councillor Danielle Stone	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	No	COMPLETE No further action – The Committee agreed that this issue would be covered in an agenda item at the meeting on 31 January 2022 and Councillor Stone be invited to attend for this item.
North West Relief Road	To review the funding gap for the project. To monitor the current processes including quality and change	31 August 2021	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	No	COMPLETE

Work Programming Event	The Committee to confirm the date for its Work Programming event	31 August 2021	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Leader (and Cabinet Member for Strategy) Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment & Rural Affairs	No	COMPLETE Work Programme for 2021/2022 finalised
Farthinghoe Bypass	To receive an update on the Farthinghoe Bypass for Scrutiny input.	26 January 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste		COMPLETE

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting dates in 2022/23

- 28 June 2022
- 12 September 2022
- 18 October
- 5 December
- 13 February 2023
- 18 April

Development of Overview and Scrutiny work programmes for 2022/23

NB: The Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group considered the process to be used to develop Overview and Scrutiny work programmes at a meeting on 25 May 2022. The Group agreed that rather than go out to public consultation about suggestions for scrutiny topics as in 2021/22 it could be more useful to consider a survey of residents' views about Council services. This would enable areas to be identified where Overview and Scrutiny might help to alleviate issues. The Group also agreed that Cabinet Members should be asked to provide details of forthcoming issues within their portfolios that might be subject to pre-decision scrutiny. The chairs of the three Overview and Scrutiny committees have written to the Leader of the Council to progress these matters.

NB: Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered various motions from the predecessor Councillors around: Climate Change, Tree Policy and Strategy, Road Safety, Spatial Options, Recycling and Waste Contract and Social Value Contract as plans, and policies are developed/or included on the WNC 2021/2022 work programme and agreed that these motions are included in the work programme: [Agenda item - Carried Motions on Notice - Predecessor Councils - West Northamptonshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Appendix A to the Place Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/2022

Carried Motions on Notice from the Predecessor Councils

At its meeting on 1 November 2021, Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered various motions on notice from the predecessor Councils, the extract of the minutes of that meeting are detailed below. Updates and further information in respect of each of the Motions on Notice that the Committee agreed to include within its work programme are detailed below.

Extract of the minutes of Place OSC of 1 November 2021

Carried Motions:

Members considered the Carried Motions on Notice from the Predecessor Councils and agreed the motions to be adopted on the work programme for West Northants Council's (WNC) Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Carried Motion on Notice

To encourage developments in which NBC is directly involved to consider having accessible toilets that meet the standards set by the "Changing Places" campaign.

Update:

Changing Places toilets are a valuable facility for people with some more severe disabilities. More information can be found at <https://www.changing-places.org/>. They need to be located in places where there is the ability to provide a swift response to any failure of equipment, and where people likely to make use of them are likely to be present.

It would be appropriate for WNC to look to see changing places toilets provided in major destinations such as shopping centres, theatres, and leisure centres.

WNC applied for changing places funding from the Government grant for these facilities. It was recently awarded £40k. This is disappointing because the original indicative allocation for the three predecessor authorities totalled £260-290k, which was reduced when it was recognised WNC existed to £90-100k, but the actual grant award is lower than that. The Government suggested each toilet is likely to cost around £40k to install, although in practice the cost can easily be more than that. Given this, current thinking is to allocate this entire grant to one suitable body, capable of installing, maintaining, and using, the facility.

Carried Motion on Notice

- *To strongly object to any further development to the south and south east of Northampton due to the impact it will have on local services, the lack of road infrastructure improvements and the impact on the A45 and local road network without adequate mitigation. To express concern at sites in East Wootton and South East Northampton being put forward for development in SNC's Local Plan. To call on SNC to take account of views from Natural England and other wildlife organisations in developing its Local Plan.*

Carried Motion on Notice

- *To continue and increase SNC's effort to ensure planning permission for the Towcester 'relief road' meets Highways England's standard for adoption and lobby government to ensure Towcester gets an adopted bypass, and lobby government to have the A5 de-trunked through the town at the earliest possible date.*

Update:

Work is ongoing on both of the above Motions on Notice.

Carried Motion on Notice

- *To continue a review of sprinkler systems in 10 Northampton Partnership Homes buildings. To undertake an urgent review of the planning policy with regard to residential developments and provisions for sprinkler systems in all new residential buildings of 5 storeys or above. To review the possible need for two separate stair cases to exit tower blocks. To ask NPH to provide tenants of tower blocks with fire safety training.*

Update

- *To continue a review of sprinkler systems in 10 Northampton Partnership Homes buildings AND ask NPH to provide tenants of tower blocks with fire safety training.*

Building safety & council owned properties

For absolute clarity the properties that are managed by Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) are owned by WNC but we contract NPH to manage these on our behalf. As Place OSC are aware officers are currently working with various teams across the council and external partners to develop WNC's first housing strategy. WNC has suggested four draft themes for the strategy. These priorities have been developed following several workshops with Council members, internal teams and key partners. The four draft themes are:

1. Deliver the homes that people need and can afford to live in

2. Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
3. Enable residents to live safe, healthy, independent and active lives
4. Support sustainable and thriving communities

Place OSC could request that a review of sprinkler systems in high-rise council housing stock managed by NPH is considered for an area of activity under the 2nd priority. If councillors felt some consideration of sprinkler systems should be given in new build council properties and/or housing association stock then this could be something that is considered if there is an appetite to set a 'WNC affordable housing standard' under Priority 1 of the new housing strategy.

Also, there is an ongoing piece of work across the council and NPH to shape the relationship between the new council and its Arms-length Management Organisation (ALMO). This work will include both organisations reviewing and agreeing refreshed governance and decision-making framework including assurance on health & safety and building standards. The review could include consideration across NPH & WNC of sprinkler system provision in high-rise buildings as part of the assurance work on health & safety and building standards.

- *To undertake an urgent review of the planning policy with regard to residential developments and provisions for sprinkler systems in all new residential buildings of 5 storeys or above. To review the possible need for two separate stair cases to exit tower blocks.*

Planning Policy & Building Control

Update

The provision of sprinkler systems within a building is not something that could be covered by planning policy. Sprinkler systems are a matter for the building control regime.

The approach to fire safety in tall buildings is in accordance with national policy and guidance which is currently based on a stay put policy with the principle of compartmentalisation being employed to provide protection to building occupiers. The Building Safety Act 2022 will result in some changes to this approach, especially in relation to higher risk buildings and there is potential for an increase in the use of sprinkler systems. Sprinkler systems require active management and maintenance and can pose further risks in themselves, for example potential for legionella, and when triggered they can create an enhanced smoke risk and have implications for the fabric of the building. A review of policy in respect of Northampton Partnership Homes properties would need to consider these factors. A requirement for two

separate staircases in Northampton Partnership Homes properties would add significantly to development costs and result in lower density developments so again these factors would need to be considered in a review of the policy.

Carried Motion on Notice

- *To agree to take specified actions to reduce the risk from housing developments that established management companies to manage open spaces and amenities below the standard for adoption and with no democratic oversight or accountability.*

Update:

The default position is the Council will always seek to adopt land as part of the development but legally it is up the developer to make the decision.

Carried Motion on Notice

- *To recognise that there are significant concerns regarding the establishment of Managed Agencies on new developments. To urge our MPs, raise this matter with the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government to work towards regulating Managed Agencies.*

Update

It is suggested that the Chair of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee discusses this carried Motion on Notice regarding how this can be taken forward.

Detailed below is the extract of the minutes of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 1 November 2021 regarding motions on notice that the Committee agreed were already covered by items on its work programme:

Extract of the minutes of Place OSC of 1 November 2021

It was recognised that a number of inherited motions on notice would be reviewed by the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee as plans and policies were developed or were included on the Place Overview and Scrutiny 2021/2022 work programme:

Climate Change Plan

- *To agree to implement any recommendations from the current Scrutiny Review concerning Air Quality in The Drapery. To note that the Administration is working with partners to address the abuse by motorists of the Traffic Regulation Orders*

applying to The Drapery and are pursuing other measures to enable improved vehicle flows.

- To establish a Scrutiny and Improvement task panel to investigate whether DDC is doing all that it can to minimise its impact upon the environment and examine how DDC, through its actions, can provide leadership to local communities in seeking ways of reducing harmful emissions.*
- To agree to declare a Climate Emergency in Northampton and commit to making it carbon neutral by 2030. To request a report at the start of 2020 setting out action taken and how the aim has been included in the start-up plans for West Northamptonshire Council.*
- To declare a Climate Emergency in Northamptonshire and commit to a target of making Northamptonshire carbon neutral by 2030. This Council further commits to work with partners to deliver that goal. This Council calls upon its successor councils to continue this work once they come into existence.*
- To call on NBC to work with public transport operators, NCC and the government to improve air quality by taking specified actions to reduce the use of diesel-powered buses and coaches in the area, reduce cars idling, and establish car-free zones around schools where possible.*
- To establish a scrutiny working group to assess the existing carbon footprint of the district and review potential actions and associated cost estimates this Council could take to limit the effects of climate change in South Northamptonshire. To call upon its successor West Northamptonshire Council to continue this work once it comes in existence.*
- To commit to searching for best ways to encourage and work with local organisations, residents, and businesses across the borough to see how they can make a difference to the environment through all relevant technologies, including options to switch to green energy companies.*

Tree Policy and Strategy

- To call for a transformation of underused urban spaces across Northampton. To develop a tree planting strategy that will replace the number of trees that are being felled or have died. To increase the number of trees in the town to create a cleaner, greener Northampton.*
- To call for a transformation of underused urban spaces across our county, to be planted with new trees to help the future generations enjoy what many of us have taken for granted. To request the initial work to form a joint plan for wider scale reinstatement of street trees as part of the move to Unitary.*
- To call on NBC to develop an up-to-date Tree Policy.*

Road Safety

- To agree to work closely with developers, academies, and trusts to make sure, where possible, schools that are being built in the county don't build-in the traffic*

problems that are such a feature of many existing schools. To promote some of the excellent best practice examples already established in many schools across the county to help alleviate issues around drop off time in both existing and new schools.

Spatial Options

- To require that all further development sites, not currently included within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, but attributed to the growth of Northampton, are concentrated in the vicinity of the proposed Northern Orbital Road so that they can contribute to the delivery of this much needed infrastructure and secure its early delivery.*

Re-cycling and Waste Contract Review

- To investigate and recommend innovative models for the recycling of cans and bottles that can be available in locations across the borough. The model recommended should educate, entertain, and encourage the process of recycling.*
- To agree to take specified actions to enable Northampton to lead an eco-friendly Britain relating to plastic waste and recycling, environmental education, a reward scheme to encourage recycling, and use of the planning process to encourage developers to consider low carbon developments.*

Social Value Policy

- To agree to promote membership of the “Making It” and “Made in Britain” campaigns to local companies; to continue to encourage potential manufacturers to site within Northampton; and to use local suppliers wherever possible and cost effective to support the local economy.*

Resolved that: *the condensed list of motions, taken from the ‘Carried Motions on Notice from the Predecessor Councils’, be incorporated in the work programme for West Northants Council’s (WNC) Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee.*