

West Northamptonshire Council

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme – Potential disaggregation between Overview and Scrutiny committees for 2023/24

West Northamptonshire Council will operate Overview and Scrutiny committees with the following remits in 2023/24:

Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Children, Education and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Finance and resources	Adult care, public health and wellbeing	Children Social Care	Built and natural environment
Corporate services	Mental Health	Early Years and Family Support	Transport and highways
Shared services under the WNC and NNC Shared Services Joint Committee	Statutory health scrutiny	Education	Community safety and regulatory services (including statutory crime and disorder scrutiny)
Corporate strategy and priorities		Child Mental Health	Economic development, regeneration and growth
		Housing	Statutory scrutiny of flood risk management
			Culture, Leisure and Communities

The new Overview and Scrutiny committees will need to consider their work programmes at the start of 2023/24. This could include considering whether they will take on any topics from the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s previous work programme. Topics listed in the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s work programme could be divided between the new committees as follows:

Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Topic	Proposed purpose	Task and Finish Panel	Comments
Integrated Care across Northamptonshire (iCAN)	The Committee to scrutinise progress made with the development of iCAN and the position on key risk factors.	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.
Debt and Money Advice Transformation Project <i>[NOTE – It is open to discussion whether debt represents a ‘wellbeing’ topic that should be dealt with by the Adult Care and Health OSC, or a ‘communities’ topic that should be dealt with by the Place OSC].</i>	The Committee to provide scrutiny input into the development and delivery of the transformation project.	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 21 February 2023 to request that more detailed plans for the future Debt and Money Advice service to be developed be presented to the Committee at an appropriate future meeting.
Individual debt and West Northamptonshire Council’s approach to debt recovery <i>[NOTE – It is open to discussion whether debt represents a ‘wellbeing’ topic that should be dealt with by the Adult Care and Health OSC, or a ‘communities’ topic that should be dealt with by the Place OSC].</i>	The Committee to consider an overview of issues relating to individual debt in West Northamptonshire and the Council’s approach to debt recovery.	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 21 February 2023 to add this topic to its work programme.
West Northamptonshire Council homecare framework	The Committee to consider an update on progress with the proposed new framework.	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 8 December 2022 to request that a progress update be brought to an appropriate future meeting.
Integrated Care Northamptonshire Strategy 2022-32 outcomes framework	The Committee to consider the outcomes framework intended to measure progress with the delivery of key outcomes in the ICN Strategy.	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 8 December 2022 to scrutinise the developing outcomes framework for the ICN Strategy.

Topic	Proposed purpose	Task and Finish Panel	Comments
Healthwatch West Northamptonshire work	The Committee to invite Healthwatch West Northamptonshire to give an overview of issues identified through its work.	No	Healthwatch Northamptonshire (HWN) has previously suggested that an item on this topic could be best scheduled following publication of HWN's Annual Report in the summer. The Committee may wish to schedule an item early in 2023/24 on HWN's Annual Report for 2022/23.
Support for people living with dementia	The Committee to scrutinise how well people living with dementia are supported in West Northamptonshire.	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.

Children, Education and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Topic	Proposed purpose	Task and Finish Panel	Comments
Task and finish scrutiny review: Special educational needs and disability (SEND) support	To approve the scope for a scrutiny review on this topic, as agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 21 November 2022.	Yes	
Housing Allocations Policy	The Committee to consider the development of a Housing Allocation policy for West Northamptonshire.	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 3 May 2023 to recommend that its successor should carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Housing Allocations Policy. At this meeting the Committee also recommended that work to develop the new Policy should explore the potential for West Northamptonshire Council to apply a broader definition of overcrowding than the statutory definition.
School performance	The Committee to invite the Regional Director to discuss school performance in relation to academy schools in West Northamptonshire.	No	The Committee sought to schedule this topic in the first half of 2022 but the-then Regional Director was not able to attend on scheduled meeting dates. This matter was pursued again in September 2022. It initially appeared that the Regional Director would be able to attend the meeting on 21 February 2023 but their attendance ultimately could not be secured. The Committee resolved to write to the Department for Education concerning engagement with the Regional Director.
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	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	<p>The Committee has identified the following potential focus areas for scrutiny:</p> <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	Task and Finish Panel	Comments
Provision of housing support for refugees	The Committee to consider an update on the provision of housing support for people coming into West Northamptonshire as refugees.	No	The Committee agreed at its meeting on 25 October 2022 that it should seek to maintain oversight of this issue.
Fostering services	The Committee to scrutinise actions to support the improvement of services provided by the Northamptonshire Children’s Trust Independent Fostering Agency following the Ofsted inspection reported in March 2023.	No	<p>The Committee agreed at its meeting on 3 May 2023 to recommend that its successor should seek to consider various areas relevant to the programme of improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quality assurance framework and processes put in place to support effective operation of fostering services in future • The outcomes delivered by the Valuing Care project on opportunities to step down care placements • An overview of the operation of the multi-agency referral panel and of the decision-making panel for children entering local authority care, to include data on caseloads, decisions and the outcomes for young people • Data on the number of children in care from West Northamptonshire, broken down by relevant factors • An outline of any discussions between the Northamptonshire local authorities and the Department for Education about the long term future direction for the Northamptonshire Children’s Trust organisational model.

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Topic	Proposed purpose	Task and Finish Panel	Comments
Sports and Leisure needs assessment	The Committee to consider the needs assessment for sports and leisure provision in West Northamptonshire.	To be confirmed.	This item was originally scheduled for late-2022 but the time required for the corporate work has since changed and late-2023 is now more likely.
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.	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 helps to meet those needs, and therefore how the Council can focus resources to have the most impact.