Work Programme and Executive Forward Plan

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Purpose of this report

The report provides Members with details of the currently drafted Committee work programme and the latest Executive Forward Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and approve the work programme attached, subject to any further amendments it may wish to make; and
2. Consider the Executive Forward Plan; and
3. Consider whether it wishes to suggest any further items for the work programme and/or establish any enquiries to assist it in reviewing specific items.

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

1. During 2016/17 Members have been invited to share their experiences of the overview and scrutiny process and make suggestions to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Panel (OSCP) on future ways of working. This feedback was subsequently considered by the OSCP who resolved to encourage the OSCs to apply the following principles for ways of working:
   a. activity be led by the OSCs and residents as well as the Executive Forward Plan;
   b. more policy development activity be undertaken through the exploration of proposals and principles at the earliest opportunity of commencement of strategy development;
   c. shorter more focused agendas through prioritisation of items that add value and enable outcomes; and
   d. create more time for Members outside of formal meetings in addition to providing more opportunity to brief Members informally on some topics.

2. In addition, the OSCP agreed that given the current experience with regard quarterly performance and budget reports a trial should be
undertaken whereby these reports will only be received by the Corporate Resources OSC from April onwards. This trial will enable Members to determine whether this approach provides greater focus on these aspects of scrutiny. All Members will be able to request an item to be added to the agenda of any the OSCs on aspects of budget or performance. The Corporate Resources OSC will also be able to refer matters to the relevant OSC for a ‘deep-dive’ of any topic if there is a particular concern.

3. The Committee is requested to consider the work programme and the indicated outcomes at **appendix 1** and to amend or add to it as necessary.

4. In considering which items should be added to the work programme Members are encouraged to minimise duplication, focus on those items that have been requested by residents and the committee and to focus on those items where Members can add value.

5. The work programme aims to provide a balance of those items on which the Executive would be grateful for a steer in addition to those items that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) wishes to proactively scrutinise.

**Overview and Scrutiny Task Forces**

6. In addition to consideration of the work programme, Members may also wish to consider how each item will be reviewed, i.e. by the Committee itself (over one or a number of Committee meetings) or by establishing a Member Task Force to review an item in greater depth and report back its findings.

**Executive Forward Plan**

7. Listed below are those items relating specifically to this Committee’s terms of reference contained in the latest version of the Executive Forward Plan. The full Executive Forward Plan can be viewed on the Council’s website at the link at the end of this report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Indicative Exec Meeting date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishing a Trading Entity for the Delivery of Social Care Services</td>
<td>08 October 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020/21 Fees and Charges (exc SCHH and Schools Trading)</td>
<td>08 October 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/21 Draft MTFP – Revenue, Capital and HRA Budgets</td>
<td>07 January 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Council Tax Support Scheme (2020/21)</td>
<td>07 January 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020/21 Final MTFP – Revenue, Capital and HRA Budgets</td>
<td>04 February 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCHH OSC Fees and Charges</td>
<td>04 February 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020/21 Schools Trading</td>
<td>04 February 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Policy</td>
<td>04 February 2020</td>
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<td>2020/21 Capital Strategy</td>
<td>04 February 2020</td>
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2020/21 Investment Strategy | 04 February 2020
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Non Key Decisions | Indicative Exec Meeting date
Quarter 1 Performance Report 2019/20 | 08 October 2019
Quarter 2 Revenue, Capital and HRA Budget Monitoring | 03 December 2019
Quarter 2 Performance Report 2019/20 | 03 December 2019
Quarter 3 Performance Report 2019/20 | 07 April 2020

**Corporate Implications**

8. The work programme of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will contribute indirectly to all 5 Council priorities. Whilst there are no direct implications arising from this report the implications of proposals will be details in full in each report submitted to the Committee.

**Conclusion and next Steps**

9. Members are requested to consider and agree the attached work programme, subject to any further amendment/additions they may wish to make and highlight those items within it where they may wish to establish a Task Force to assist the Committee in its work. This will allow officers to plan accordingly but will not preclude further items being added during the course of the year if Members so wish and capacity exists.

**Appendices - Appendix A:** OSC work programme

**Background Papers**

Executive Forward Plan (can be viewed at any time on the Council’s website) at the following link:-
http://centralbeds.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=577&RD=0