

Committee(s): Audit and Scrutiny	Date: 05 July 2022
Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Steve Summers, Strategic Director	Public
Report Author/s: Name: Steve Summers Telephone: 01277 312500 E-mail: steve.summers@brentwood.gov.uk	For Decision

Summary

The Constitution requires that the Audit & Scrutiny Committee agrees its Scrutiny work programme at each meeting of the Committee. This report provides an update of the current scrutiny work programme and is set out in Appendix A.

Councillor Cloke on the 14th May 2022 has put forward for consideration for the Committees Scrutiny Programme as follows:

‘Formation, make up and running of working groups. The membership of these groups does not seem to be assigned consistently or according to Widdecombe principles and I wonder if a standard approach should be applied. The work planned and completed by these groups is also opaque at best. My primary concern is the constitution working group but a review of the overall approach and other working groups would be of benefit.’

In addition, the Committee approved on the 5th March 2022, Min330 refers, that a Working Group be formed for the purpose of evaluating the Outside Organisations and recommend the removal of any Outside Organisations to Ordinary Council for 2023/24. Members are requested to nominate representatives for this Working Group.

Recommendation(s)

R1. That the Committee considers and agrees the 2022/23 Scrutiny work programme as set out in Appendix A with any additions agreed by the committee at the meeting.

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. At the Annual Council it was agreed that the committee structure would include the introduction of an Audit & Scrutiny Committee.

2. In relation to new scrutiny matters under its Terms of Reference any scrutiny matter identified by members must be agreed Audit and Scrutiny Committee.
3. The Audit & Scrutiny Committee also has responsibility to review decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge by the responsible authorities of their crime and disorder functions. In addition, it has responsibility for the monitoring of Council service performance, including Performance Indicators and Formal Complaints.
4. The Scrutiny work programme should not include management or staffing, issues which are the responsibility of the Head of Paid Service.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Constitution requires that the Audit & Scrutiny Committee agrees its Scrutiny work programme at each meeting of the Committee.

Consultation

None

References to Corporate Plan

The vision of Transformation includes an action to improve the Council's governance arrangements, leading to faster, more effective decision-making. An effective scrutiny function is an essential element of that priority.

Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Jacqueline Van Mellaerts, Corporate Director (Finance & Resources) and Section 151 Officer

Tel/Email: 01277 312500/jacqueline.vanmellaerts@brentwood.gov.uk

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Amanda Julian, Corporate Director (Law & Governance) and Monitoring Officer

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There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Economic Implications

Name/Title: Phil Drane, Corporate Director (Planning & Economy)

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There are no direct economic implications from this report.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

None

Background Papers

None

Appendices to this report

- Appendix A: Draft Scrutiny Work Programme – July - 2022/23