

Vulnerable Adults, Health and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Thursday 7 March 2024
Classification:	General Release
Title:	2024/2025 Work Programme
Report of:	Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison
Wards Involved:	All
Policy Context:	All
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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report asks the Vulnerable Adults, Health and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee (“the Committee”) to discuss topics for its work programme.
- 1.2 This report also considers the work of the Committee since its last meeting on 18 January 2024.

2. Formal Meeting Dates for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year

- 2.1 The Committee is advised that this is the last scheduled meeting date for the 2023/2024 year.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Policy and Scrutiny team have supported the Committee in creating the work programme and the Committee has considered items on those areas where the Council is currently working to develop new policy, where policies previously implemented are ready for strategic review or where scrutiny plays an overall role in assurance. The overall emphasis is to provide scrutiny with maximum opportunity to have impact and influence Council policy.
- 3.4 When drawing up the work programme, the Committee considered the vision and purpose of scrutiny at Westminster.

Scrutiny is a vital function to promote transparency and accountability. On behalf of Westminster's communities and stakeholders, local non-Executive Councillors will endeavour to ensure services in the City not only meet people's needs but enhance lived experiences by:

- 1. Championing the best possible outcomes for communities and stakeholders.*
- 2. Holding the Council, its partner organisations and external bodies to account for decisions taken and the impacts on our communities.*
- 3. Examining Council priorities, actively engaging in policy development and offering constructive challenge prior to decisions being taken.*
- 4. Working strategically across the city to focus our efforts on policy and service areas where scrutiny can make the biggest impact.*
- 5. Demonstrating integrity and commitment by adhering to the Nolan Principles of Public Life.*

4. Work Programme for 2024/25

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to discuss and propose topics of interest for the next municipal year's work programme in 2024/25.
- 4.2 The Committee's attention should be drawn to the Terms of Reference, set out in Appendix 1, which may assist the Committee in identifying issues to be included in the work programme.
- 4.3 The Committee is due to meet on 13 May 2024 to discuss items for its work programme after the Cabinet Member Annual Updates held between Monday 15 April to Thursday 25 April. The Committee will use the Updates to help identify possible issues for future investigation by scrutiny.
- 4.4 When considering the work programme, and agreeing an overall programme of scrutiny activity, the Committee should have regard to whether the work programme is achievable in terms of both Officer and Member time, taking into account that the Committee is scheduled to meet four times per year. Members are also reminded that it is advisable to hold some capacity in reserve for any urgent issues that might arise.

5. Task Groups and Single Member Studies

- 5.1 Each Committee has discretion to establish Task Groups and Single Member Studies to examine key issues in more detail. The Committee is asked to consider whether they would like to establish a Task Group or commission a Single Member Study. The Committee should be advised that both Members and Officers will only be able to successfully take part in and support a finite number of Task Groups at any one time.

6. Monitoring recommendations and actions

- 6.1 The recommendations and actions arising from each meeting are recorded in the Recommendation and Action Tracker attached as Appendix 2. Members are invited to review the work undertaken in response to those recommendations and actions.

7. Committee activity

7.1 Since the previous meeting of the Committee on, 18 January 2024, the Committee has received the following reports:

- The Annual Director of Public Health Report - Combatting Drug and Alcohol Misuse
- The Adult Carers' Strategy 2023-2028 - Empowering carers to live a healthier and happier life
- Changing Lives - Learning Disability Plan for Adults 2023-2026

If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the background papers, please contact Linda Hunting.

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Appendix 1: Terms of Reference

Appendix 2: Recommendation and Action Tracker