

Scrutiny Work Plan 2023/2024

The Scrutiny Work Plan outlines the areas of work which are expected to be scrutinised over the coming months/year by or on behalf of the Council's Scrutiny function and any Panels/Task and Finish Groups convened for review work.

Topics added to the work plan will have expected outcomes to add value to the services delivered by the Council and its partners and/or improve the quality of lives of North Northamptonshire residents. It is recognised that there is a need for flexibility in the work plan so as to allow relevant issues to be dealt with as and when they arise.

Numerous sources of information can help to inform topic selection, including:

- Concerns that have been raised by the public/stakeholders (whether they are Council service specific or wider national/local issues)
- Issues relating to Councils outcomes, objectives and priorities
- Consultations and interviews
- Underperformance
- Executive recommendations about the pertinent issues that are emerging and any opportunities or threats on the horizon
- Central government priority changes
- Forward Plan
- Budgetary analysis

Scrutiny should always link back to the Council Corporate Plan so that it is scrutinising whether the Council is meeting its strategic aims.

Scrutiny should use effective processes to select topics that will contribute towards the best possible work plan for Scrutiny. This means looking at the sources of information that may help and using them to choose the right topics. A Scrutiny Conference was attended by Scrutiny members to develop this work plan where they reviewed information to inform the work plan and then prioritised the topics.

Successful Scrutiny is about looking at the right topic in the right way and Members will need to be selective whilst also being able to demonstrate clear arguments in favour of including or excluding topics. A common pitfall for Scrutiny can be the inclusion of topics on the work plan that are unmanageable, of limited interest to the community, purely for informational purposes, have few outcomes and fail to 'add value' to the work of the Council or the wellbeing of the community. As such the selection and prioritisation of topics is critical to the effectiveness of Scrutiny as such processes can ensure clearer focus, particularly in poor or weak areas of performance or major issues of concern to the wider community. It is not possible to include every topic suggested as Scrutiny has limited time and resources and therefore workplans need to be manageable.

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
27 NOVEMBER 2023

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Outcome of Scrutiny Members' Learning and Development Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the recent member training programme held in September and October and to agree any next steps required. 	Head of Democratic Services	

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Review of Scrutiny Workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and update the workplan as required; To consider scrutiny agenda requests and allocate to the relevant Committee if they are approved. 	Head of Democratic Services	
2.	To determine call in requests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine any call-in requests requested by members following consideration of relevant key decisions by the Executive. 	Head of Democratic Services, Executive Director of Customer and Governance	

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

8 FEBRUARY 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Scrutiny/Executive Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider and approve a Protocol for working relationships between Scrutiny and the Executive, following consultation with the Executive, Scrutiny Chairs and Vice Chairs, and CLT. 	Head of Democratic Services, Executive Director of Customer and Governance	Previously proposed to be considered at November meeting but proposal to delay to allow for informal consultation with the Leader and Executive.
2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Review of Scrutiny Workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To review and update the workplan as required; • To consider scrutiny agenda requests and allocate to the relevant Committee if they are approved. 	Head of Democratic Services	
2.	To determine call in requests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To determine any call-in requests requested by members following consideration of relevant key decisions by the Executive. 	Head of Democratic Services, Executive Director of Customer and Governance	

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
4 APRIL 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To consider and approve the Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24, for submission to full Council. 	Head of Democratic Services, Executive Director of Customer and Governance	
2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 		

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
3.	Review of Scrutiny Workplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and update the workplan as required; To consider scrutiny agenda requests and allocate to the relevant Committee if they are approved. 	Head of Democratic Services	
4.	To determine call in requests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To determine any call-in requests requested by members following consideration of relevant key decisions by the Executive. 	Head of Democratic Services, Executive Director of Customer and Governance	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 December 2023

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Children's Trust Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the annual performance of the Trust. 	Executive Director, Children's Services/ Children's Trust Executive Member for Children's Services	Will already have been considered by Executive (16th Nov) and full Council (7th Dec). Will it be necessary for Scrutiny to consider as well?
2.	Children's Trust Financial Position Mid-Year Review	To understand the nature of the current overspends and to seek reassurance of the plan to bring the budget back into balance by the end of the financial year.	Executive Director, Children's Services/Executive Director of Finance and Performance/ Children's Trust Executive Member for Children's Services	Suggested to be moved from 10 October as Trust not able to attend October meeting.

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Performance Indicators 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide members with an update on the Council's performance across a wide range of services, as measured by Key Performance Indicators, with the aim of informing scrutiny. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
2.	Forecast Draft Outturn 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget which was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

13 February 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Customer Service Operations and Out of Hours Service	To include an update on the performance and bedding in of the new telephony system, rolled out in summer/autumn 2023.	Executive Director for Customer and Governance, Executive Member for Finance and Performance	
2.				

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Performance Indicators 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide members with an update on the Council's performance across a wide range of services, as measured by Key Performance Indicators, with the aim of informing scrutiny. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
2.	Forecast Draft Outturn 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget which was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 April 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Review of Implementation of Pay and Grading	To scrutinise the implementation of the new pay structure and terms and conditions following approval by full Council on 31 August 2023.	Assistant Director for Human Resources	
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Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Performance Indicators 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide members with an update on the Council's performance across a wide range of services, as measured by Key Performance Indicators, with the aim of informing scrutiny. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
2.	Forecast Draft Outturn 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget which was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

June 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Agency/OPUS figures	To scrutinise whether best value is being received from the contract and the impacts of vacancies on the Council.	Executive Director of Customer and Governance, Executive Member for Finance and Performance	
2.				

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

Regular Scrutiny Items

	Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Performance Indicators 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide members with an update on the Council's performance across a wide range of services, as measured by Key Performance Indicators, with the aim of informing scrutiny. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
2.	Forecast Draft Outturn 2023/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A regular monitoring report setting out the material financial issues identified since the 2023/24 budget which was set in February 2023. 	Executive Director of Finance and Performance Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Topic Areas Beyond June 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
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HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

9 January 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Update on Kettering General Hospital Rebuild	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the progress being made with the rebuild of KGH 	Representative from KGH, TBC, Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	
2.	Health Integration - Progress from the Local Area Partnerships/Community Wellbeing Forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide an update on how some of the key local partnerships arising from Integrated Care in Northamptonshire are performing and meeting their outcomes. 	Director of Place, Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	
3.	NHS Northamptonshire ICB Five-Year Joint Forward Plan 2023-28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the proposals and targets of the Integrated Care Board over the next five years. 	Director of Place, Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	Originally to be considered at November 2023 meeting, however proposed for this meeting due to lack of availability of external officers.

4.	EMAS Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMAS published its annual report on 21 June 2023 so to ask them to Health Scrutiny in the autumn, and schedule it earlier for next year. EMAS Annual Report 2022 to 2023 	Representative from EMAS, TBC, Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	Originally to be considered at November 2023 meeting, however proposed for this meeting due to lack of availability of external officers.
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Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 March 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	GP Performance and Availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise GP appointment availability. 	Director of Public Health and Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	Proposal from Health Scrutiny Committee to bring forward from list of future items beyond July 2024.
2.	Substance Abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise strategies in dealing with substance abuse. 	Director of Public Health and Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	Proposal from Health Scrutiny Committee to bring forward from list of future items beyond July 2024.
3.	Rough sleeping in North Northamptonshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise strategies in dealing with rough sleeping. 	Director of Public Health and Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	Proposal from Health Scrutiny meeting held on 14 November 2023.

Updated 16/11/23

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 May 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – Quality Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the annual report of the Foundation Trust 	Representative of the NHS Foundation Trust, TBC, Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	
2.				

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

July 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
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Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Topic Areas Beyond July 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
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PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 December 2023

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, and Executive Member	Notes
1.	New Highways Contract Provider (Highways and Transport)	Review of performance of the new highways contract providers following the first year of service. Data for Y1 runs to Sept 2023 (available in October).	Assistant Director for Highways and Waste, Executive member for Highways, travel and Assets	
2.	Sustainable Urban Extensions	To scrutinise SUEs arising from a concern that these are not moving forward quickly enough (e.g. Rushden, Tresham and Corby West). If these fail to happen in a timely manner it puts more pressure on our housing supply	Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive member for Growth and Regeneration	
3.	Housing Voids	To scrutinise the progress in addressing backlogs and the time taken to achieve this.	Executive Director – Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing, Executive Member for Housing, Communities & Levelling-up	

4.	Review of progress in relation to the Bus Service Improvement Plan	To consider the impact that grant funding may have on the North Northamptonshire area and outcome of the enhanced partnership	Executive Director of Place and Economy Executive Member for Highways Travel and Assets	Proposed to be moved from 31 10 23 meeting of Place and Economy Scrutiny Committee
5.	Social Housing Regulations Act	To understand the impact on the council's role of Housing following the July Royal Assent of the SHR Act	Executive Director Adults, Health Partnerships and Housing Executive Member for Housing Communities and Levelling Up	Proposed to be moved from 31 10 23 meeting of Place and Economy Scrutiny Committee

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Kettering Leisure Village	Consideration of Business Case prior to Executive decision.	Executive Director of Place and Economy, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets	Proposed to be moved from 31 October 2023 meeting of Place and Economy Scrutiny as Business Case not ready at that time for consideration.
2.	Corby Local Cycling & Walking Plan	Consideration of Plan prior to consideration by Executive on 19 January 2024.	Sally Crew, Interim Transport Strategy Manager	Proposed for inclusion as pre-scrutiny to workplan.

Updated 16/11/23

PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 February 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Rural Isolation and Accessibility	To scrutinise how rural isolation and accessibility to work and education is being addressed to enable travel to work and education?	Executive Director of Place and Economy, Executive Members for Highways, Travel and Assets and Rural Communities and Localism	Invitations to be extended to Health Scrutiny Chair/Vice Chair and members due to the work being undertaken by Local Area Partnerships around rural isolation.
2.	How the Council is working towards an integrated transport solution.	To scrutinise the strategic objectives of the Council in achieving an integrated transport solution.	Assistant Director for Highways and Waste, Executive member for Highways, travel and Assets	
3.	Planning Enforcement	What is the current status of their activities and what are the policy priorities?	Executive Director of Place and Economy,	

Updated 16/11/23

			Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration	
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Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
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PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

30 April 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
2.				

Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
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PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

June 2024

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
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Pre-Scrutiny of Executive Reports

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.				
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PLACE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Topic Areas Beyond June 2014

Detailed Scrutiny Items

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
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SCRUTINY REVIEW PANELS

Remainder of 2023

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Asset Rationalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conclude the existing work being undertaken 	Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive Member for Highways, Travel and Assets	
2.	Section 106 Agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine whether S106 monies are being fully utilised Whether members have access to S106 information for their wards. Identify where S106 money was not effectively used. Review how effective the S106 policies have been in each area Understand where and why there have been slippages against the programme and 	Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive Member for Growth and Regeneration	<p>The Review Panel and its terms of reference were agreed at the meeting of Place and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 31 October 2023.</p> <p>The Panel is in the process of being established.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a consistent and combined S106 methodology looking at new legislative requirements of the Council, i.e. biodiversity, carbon offsetting, building in green initiatives. • To provide recommendations on procedures to ensure that S106 money is always put to good use in time, before entitlement lapses. • To provide recommendations on recording of S106 spend that is transparent and accessible 		
3.	ICT Value for Money	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conclude the existing work being undertaken 	Assistant Chief Executive, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
4.	Annual Budget and Capital Programme (Regular Panel item)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To scrutinise the proposed budget and capital programme for 2024/25 <p>NB. This will carry over to January 2024</p>	Executive Director of Finance, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	<p>Phase 1 of this Panel concluded on 20 November 2023.</p> <p>Phase 2 will commence in December 2023 and conclude in February 2024.</p>

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANELS

First half of 2024

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Crime and Disorder/Knife Crime		Executive Director for Place and Economy, Executive Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing	
2.	Annual Review of Outside Bodies (Regular Panel item)	To undertake a regular review of the appropriateness of Outside Bodies sat on by councillors, in accordance with the Outside Bodies Procedure Rules and Scrutiny Procedure Rules within the Constitution.	Head of Democratic Services	
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SCRUTINY REVIEW PANELS

Second half of 2024

	Suggested Topic	Reasons for Scrutiny	Officer, Chair and Executive Member	Notes
1.	Annual Budget and Capital Programme (Regular Panel item)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To scrutinise the proposed budget and capital programme for 2025/26 NB. This will carry over to January 2025	Executive Director of Finance and Performance, Executive Member for Finance and Transformation	
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