

Scrutiny Work Programme (2020- 2021)

Report No:	OAS/WS/20/015	
Report to and date:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3 September 2020
Chair of the Committee:	Councillor Ian Shipp Tel: 07368 134769 Email: ian.shipp@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Christine Brain Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) Tel: 01638 719729 Email: Christine.brain@westsuffolk.gov.uk	

Decisions Plan: This item is not included in the Decisions Plan.

Wards impacted: Not applicable.

Recommendation: It is **RECOMMENDED** that, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Reviews and notes the current status of topics currently scheduled in its rolling work programme for 2020-2021, attached at Appendix 1.

1. Background

1.1 Rolling Work Programme

- 1.1.1 The Committee has a rolling work programme whereby suggestions for scrutiny reviews are brought to each meeting, following the completion of the work programme suggestion form, and if accepted, are timetabled to report to a future meeting.
- 1.1.2 The work programme also leaves space for Call-ins and Councillor Calls for Action.
- 1.1.3 The current position of the work programme, including any Task and Finish Group(s) or Review Groups, and items currently agreed, but yet to be programmed for 2020-2021 is attached at **Appendix 1**.

2. Outcome of Scrutiny Meeting (9 July 2020)

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 9 July 2020, the Committee agreed to develop the work programme based on the principles discussed in the Committee meeting.
- 2.2 Following on from that meeting, the Chair met with officers to discuss and develop those principles in revising the work programme accordingly, by taking on board member feedback and scheduling those items as follows:

12 November 2020:

Several questions were asked about how Covid-19 has impacted upon some of the major programmes that the Council is operating such as Western Way Development, Mildenhall Hub, Newmarket Cinema and Barley Homes. This meeting will give members an opportunity to talk to lead members and officers about this topic in more detail.

14 January 2021:

The Anglia Revenues Partnership (ARP) to be invited to this meeting to talk to members in more detail about their debt recovery programmes in light of concern about the nature of some of the aged debt being written off that dates back several years. In addition, without crossing too far into the role of the Performance and Audit Scrutiny, there might be an opportunity to find out more about how Covid-19 is impacting on business rates and council tax recovery and how recovery approaches have had to shift accordingly.

At each meeting:

The Committee will continue to review its forthcoming work programme as well as periodic reports from Councillor Margaret Marks on the work of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

There are still important topics such as the impact of Brexit upon the Council that will need to be scheduled into the work programme, but the timing of

this is difficult to commit to at this stage. The work programme will continue to highlight such items as "to be scheduled" so we do not lose sight of them.

3. Suggestion for Scrutiny: Operation of West Suffolk Markets

- 3.1 In addition to the above, since the Committee met on 9 July 2020, the Chair has been made aware that a number of members are interested in the current and future operations of our markets. With this in mind the Chair is keen to see how this can be incorporated into the Committee's work programme.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. Consultation and engagement

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. Risks

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 **Appendix 1** – Scrutiny Work Programme (2020-2021)

8. Background documents

- 8.1 None