

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

17 MARCH 2026

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27 – In Depth Reviews

Summary

The report presents topic suggestions for in-depth scrutiny reviews for consideration by Executive Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations

Executive Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the topic suggestions and comments from Scrutiny Liaison Forum and set the work programme, allocating reviews to individual Select Committees.

Detail

In Depth Reviews

1. Scrutiny has the power to look at anything which affects “the area, or the area’s inhabitants”. Currently the work programme is a mix of in-depth reviews some focusing on supporting the Council’s priorities as part of the Powering Our Future programme and others directly proposed by Members. Reviews completed/ currently underway for 2025-26 are set out below:

Committee	In-Depth Review Topic
Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers Support Complete • Adult Education and Skills Not Started
Children and Young People Select Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally Resourced SEND Provision Paused • Children not in School In Progress
Community Safety Select Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children affected by Domestic Abuse Complete • Community Participation Budget and Ward Transport Budgets In Progress
People Select Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership Working in Early Help Complete • Post-16 Provision In Progress
Place Select Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muslim and Faith Burial Provision Complete • Governance of Capital Projects In Progress

2. A table of topic suggestions received is attached at **Appendix A** with comments on other work completed in recent years. Topic suggestions are grouped by theme, however, Members are reminded that Select Committees have flexible remits and do not have to conduct reviews within their thematic remit.
3. Proformas for each topic suggestion are attached at **Appendix B**.
4. In agreeing a work programme of in-depth reviews, the following needs to be borne in mind:
 - a. Where work has already commenced on a review, it will be completed; any review on the current work programme but not commenced will be re-considered against other priorities and could potentially be removed from the programme
 - b. As 2026/27 is the final year ahead of the local elections, it will only be possible for one new review to be carried out per Select Committee. This recognises carry over from the current year and the need for reviews to report to Cabinet in January/February 2027 well ahead of the purdah period
5. Scrutiny Liaison Forum are meeting on 10 March 2026 to consider the topic suggestions received and their comments will be reported to the meeting.

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

6. None directly at this stage.

Corporate Parenting Implications

7. None directly at this stage.

Financial and Legal Implications

8. The work programme is resourced within existing budgets. No legal implications are identified at this stage.

Risk Assessment

9. There is a need to meet legislative requirements and for the Council to put in place internal mechanisms to ensure the safety and quality of key services in addition to deploying resources in the most effective way. The selection of appropriate topics for review can help to support service improvement; the selection of inappropriate topics will lead to the waste of officer and Member time and resources.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/ Councillors

10. Consultation has taken place with all Councillors.

Background Papers

11. None

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