

Slough Borough Council

Report To:	Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee
Date:	30 January 2024
Subject:	Forward Work Programme of the Corporate Improvement Select Committee (CISC)
Chief Officer:	Stephen Taylor, Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Alexander Polak, Statutory Scrutiny Officer Michael Edley, Scrutiny Officer
Ward(s):	All
Exempt:	No
Appendices:	Appendix A – Draft Forward Work Programme Jan 2024 - April 2024

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the latest version of the work programme for the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee (CISC), included at Appendix A. It includes key training workshops and Briefings for members,

Recommendations:

- The Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee is recommended to review and agree the revised Forward Work Programme (Appendix A).

Commissioner Review

To Follow.

2. Report

- 2.1 The Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee (CISC) is invited to review and agree this work programme (Appendix A) whilst noting that it is a living document and is intended to continue to evolve in response to events over the course of the period covered. In the usual course of things, it will also be fully refreshed after each Annual Council.
- 2.2 Work programmes always evolve over time, and this version (Appendix A) is the result of a review on 13 December to which members were invited to submit proposals for topics/issues they felt CISC might be able to add value.
- 2.3 The revised work plan also now includes CISC training events as well as other minor changes previously agreed by the committee and/or Chair between October and December, such as accommodating the Chief Constable's and PCCs Annual Report.

3. Implications of the Recommendations

3.1 Financial implications

3.2 This is not a decision-making report so there are no direct financial implications. Where further work is required to respond to the issues identified, any recommendations from CISC will be made to Cabinet.

3.3 Legal implications

3.4 The Local Government Act 2000 introduced a new political management system for local councils in England and Wales, requiring them to have a separate 'executive' in the form of a leader, or elected mayor, and cabinet. To provide a counterweight for this, the Act also introduced the concept of 'overview and scrutiny' – sometimes referred to simply as 'scrutiny' – whereby every council with an executive management structure is required to have an overview and scrutiny committee. This enables the rest of the council to scrutinise the executive by investigating their decisions; policies; issuing reports and recommendations where any shortcomings are identified. Four key roles for overview and scrutiny are: holding executive, individual cabinet members and chief officers to account to ensure corporate priorities are met; policy development and review; external scrutiny, and performance management and best value.

3.5 Risk management implications

3.6 Overview and Scrutiny, commonly referred to as Scrutiny, is a statutory function and is currently subject to government direction in Slough. Failure to develop and approve a Forward Work Programme for Corporate Improvement and Scrutiny would increase the risk of challenge and criticism. The process of scrutiny itself can often serve as an early risk warning mechanism for the organisation.

3.7 Equality implications

3.8 The FWP and the covering report include reference to the CfGS scrutiny guidance – which together with the general Public Sector Equality Duty and Nolan's principles, incorporates provisions that are linked to the Equality Act duties, including, inter alia, a requirement to maintaining integrity, respect the rule of law, consideration of any disproportionate impact of decision-making process, ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

4. Appendices

Appendix A: Draft proposed Forward Work Programme January to April for the Corporate Improvement Scrutiny Committee