



4 November 2022

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 14 NOVEMBER 2022

A meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held at 6pm on Monday 14 November 2022 in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall, Rugby.

Mannie Ketley
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2022.

2. Apologies

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of:

(a) non-pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(b) pecuniary interests as defined by the Council's Code of Conduct for Councillors;

(c) notice under Section 106 Local Government Finance Act 1992 – non-payment of Community Charge or Council Tax.

Note: Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their non-pecuniary interests at the commencement of the meeting (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a pecuniary interest, the Member must withdraw from the room unless one of the exceptions applies.

Membership of Warwickshire County Council or any Parish Council is classed as a non-pecuniary interest under the Code of Conduct. A Member does not need to declare this interest unless the Member chooses to speak on a matter relating to their membership. If the Member does not wish to speak on the matter, the Member may still vote on the matter without making a declaration.

4. Cost of Living – Themes and Progress.
5. Review of Access to Emergency Health Care Provision – revised scoping paper (to follow).
6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

Membership of the Committee:

Councillors Eccleson (Chair), Edwards, T Lawrence, Mahoney, Mrs New, Mrs O'Rourke, Mrs Parker, Rabin and Ward

If you have any general queries with regard to this agenda please contact Linn Ashmore, Democratic Services Officer on 01788 533522 or email linn.ashmore@rugby.gov.uk. Any specific queries concerning reports should be directed to the listed contact officer.

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Cost of Living – Themes and Progress
Name of Committee:	Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	14 November 2022
Contact Officer:	Mike Connell – Chief Officer Digital and Communications (tel 01788 533466 email: Mike.connell@rugby.gov.uk)
Summary:	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide an update on activities in progress and planned to support residents, businesses, and staff in response to current cost of living issues.</p> <p>The report also considers the various motions that were considered at Full Council in September 2022. A copy of the agreed resolutions are set out in Appendix A.</p> <p>The considerations of the various motions will be made in conjunction with the range of activities that officers are working on to support families and individuals who are vulnerable to the effects of the Cost-of-Living Crisis.</p> <p>The report should also be used to consider any future interventions which the Scrutiny Committee may wish to recommend.</p>
Financial Implications:	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:	The report can be viewed as a summary of current and planned mitigation measures in response to current cost of living issues.
Environmental Implications:	There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report. However, where appropriate, some workstreams may require an Environmental Impact Assessment.
Legal Implications:	There are no legal implications arising from his report

Equality and Diversity:

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report. However, where appropriate, some workstreams may require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Scrutiny Committee - 14 November 2022

Cost of living – Themes and Issues

Public Report of the Chief Officer - Digital and Communications

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on activities in progress and planned to support residents, businesses, and staff in response to current cost of living issues.

The report also considers the various motions that were considered at Full Council in September 2022. A copy of the agreed resolutions is set out in Appendix A.

The considerations of the various motions will be made in conjunction with the range of activities that officers are working on to support families and individuals who are vulnerable to the effects of the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

The report should also be used to consider any future interventions which the Scrutiny Committee may wish to recommend

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Scrutiny Committee notes the workstreams detailed within the report.
- (2) That the Scrutiny Committee support the delivery of the workstreams.

1 INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

- 1.1 The country is experiencing significant economic challenges, with a number of factors at a global and local scale, giving rise to significant cost of living pressures. Within this context, cost of living pressures are having a significant impact on households, businesses and community organisations across the Borough.
- 1.2 Cost of living pressures have the potential to result in a significant fall in living standards meaning that residents and businesses of the Borough will need focussed support. It is recognised that much of this support will be provided at a national and regional level; however localised support will also play a significant role.
- 1.3 It is difficult to predict the likely duration of the current cost of living pressures and so, it is perhaps most sensible to consider the pressures in the short (next 6 months), medium (next 18 months) and long term (18 months +).

- 1.4 Key areas of concern for households include steep rises in the cost of food, fuel, housing costs and wellbeing.
- In September 2022, inflation reached 10.1%, with increasing food prices being a key driver for this.
 - Household energy bills increased by 54% in April 2022 and increased further in October 2022, as the price cap was reviewed.
 - In November 2022, the Bank of England Base Rate rose to 3%, with further rises possible. It is anticipated that such a rise will cause further pressures on both homeowners and renters.
- 1.5 Various government support packages have been announced, including a £150 energy bill contribution (often referred to as a council tax rebate), a £400 energy bill discount and the most vulnerable 8 million households receiving support of at least £1,200.
- 1.6 The Energy Price Guarantee will reduce the unit cost of electricity and gas so that a typical household in Great Britain pays, on average, around £2,500 a year on their energy bill, for 6 months, from 1 October 2022, with a review to inform future support.
- 1.7 For those in social housing the government regulates how much social housing rents can increase each year. Currently this is set at up to the consumer price index (CPI) rate plus 1% – meaning potential increases next year (2023) of 11% in line with recent Bank of England forecasts. The government is considering a rent cap which would help support the most vulnerable households in the face of cost-of-living pressures, with consideration being given to capping at CPI Rate + 3%, 5% or 7%.
- 1.8 Key areas of concern for businesses include:
- Inflationary pressures increasing the costs of supplies across most sectors
 - Recruitment and retention challenges causing an increase in salaries,
 - Increasing energy supply costs,
 - Increased costs of borrowing and
 - Decreased consumer confidence.
- 1.9 Government has announced support for businesses with energy price capping for businesses at the same rate that households pay for six months.
- 1.10 The Council is keen to provide support to residents, staff and businesses where it is appropriate and feasible to do so, whilst being mindful of the range of existing support planned or already being provided at a national and local scale.
- 1.11 Council support should be targeted towards helping the most vulnerable to cope with the impacts of the cost-of-living pressures and to access the range of support available through the Council and our partners.

2 PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 In addressing cost of living pressures, the Council will focus efforts toward the additional interventions which can be made locally, working with key partners, to enable targeted support to the most vulnerable.
- 2.2 The key objectives of the Council's Cost of Living work are:
- **Delivering Effective Communications:** Ensuring that the full range of support which is available to residents and businesses is understood and shared. This includes ensuring that appropriate information is available on the Council's website to support residents who are at risk of financial difficulty.
 - **Empowering Staff:** Ensuring that staff are able to identify financial vulnerability and signpost towards appropriate support.
 - **Working with Partners:** Ensuring a broad understanding of partner agencies' support offers, to avoid duplication and to inform signposting.
 - **Delivering Support:** Intervening when further targeted action by the Council is necessary.

3 COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Council's website has been reviewed and a new page developed to ensure that residents can access useful and relevant information https://www.rugby.gov.uk/info/20067/housing/539/support_for_the_community
- 3.2 The page also serves as a source of information which our staff can direct customers towards. The page is highlighted on the Council's home page to ensure that it is prominent and provides information on:
- Support with Energy Bills
 - Rugby Foodbank
 - Debt and Money Advice
 - Access to affordable loans
 - Support to find work and advice on benefits
 - Help to furnish your homes
 - Support for armed forces or ex forces personnel
 - Support for young people
- 3.3 We can potentially convert this information into a simple leaflet which frontline staff (such as property repairs operatives and housing officers) can carry with them and issue to residents as appropriate. However, there are limitations of passing on information in this way.

Therefore, Members are asked to consider:

- how can they support getting this information out to more excluded groups?
- how best we issue the information we have available to households that are digitally excluded or where they are unable to read English?

We can potentially do a blanket mailshot to residents or develop a more targeted approach, for example utilising Mosaic data to identify where this would be most appropriate.

- 3.4 A business focussed page on the website is being developed and will be made available prior to the end of Q3 2022/2023.
- 3.5 The Council's monthly digital Tenants Newsletter will focus on cost of living throughout the winter, and we will use the newsletter to provide useful and relevant information to our tenants including sources of support. Officers will seek to extend the reach of these newsletters to those that are digitally excluded, or who do not read English, for example by utilising Independent Living Co-ordinators.
- 3.6 We will use all of our communications, including social media, to ensure that information which we provide to staff, residents and businesses is current and relevant. In particular, the Council will deliver a targeted communications campaign around Christmas, signposting to support our staff, residents and businesses around support available for the financial challenges that can arise over the festive period.
- 3.7 Furthermore, we will utilise internal communication channels to signpost staff towards advice and practical support.
- 3.8 In defining support for businesses, we will work with partners such as the Federation for Small Businesses, the Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub, the Chamber of Commerce and Warwickshire County Council.
- 3.9 It is also recognised that providing a single point of contact within the Council for businesses is important. Council has already agreed to fund the creation of an Economic Development Officer and recruitment to this role is underway.

4 EMPOWERING STAFF

- 4.1 We recognise the importance of empowering and upskilling our staff to recognise vulnerability and the triggers associated with someone who is struggling financially
- 4.2 It is important that when staff recognise such vulnerability, they are able to signpost or refer customers towards the most appropriate sources of help.
- 4.3 To this end, we will be investigating all possible means of enabling early identification of need and ensuring simple pathways to relevant support agencies.

- The Housing Service will utilise the algorithm-based Rent Sense software enabling the most financially vulnerable tenants to be identified so that we can target resources and support more effectively at those who require it.
- Our contact centre staff (and other front facing staff) have received training provided recently about Delivering Great Customer Care in difficult times through an external provider. Alongside this, a Financial Wellbeing Course has been provided, covering information such as how to budget, saving money, and financial resilience.
- Our customer services staff have all received safeguarding training which is refreshed regularly through the material in their training area, which greatly assists with identifying vulnerability.

4.4 Consideration will be given to further means of identifying vulnerability, including, but not limited to:

- Welfare checks, in particular, for those within Council owned housing.
- Increased presence on estates.
- Additional training for Council staff working within residents' homes, such as the Property Repairs Service.

5 DELIVERING SUPPORT

5.1 Affordable Warmth - We have a range of measures in place to achieve affordable warmth for residents and tenants.

5.2 Tenants living in RBC stock:

- We plan an audit of the energy efficiency of each council home, this will result in a plan of works required to improve energy efficiency and retrofit properties as necessary.
- We plan to install 773 High Efficiency Boilers, in 2022 and 2023 to address a specific issue with early failing boilers and those that are required to meet decent homes standards.
- We will continue to apply for funding to support improvements to the housing stock, for example we have secured Local Authority Delivery Scheme funding of £0.507M and contributed £0.232M from our own resources to fund a variety of measures, including roof and wall insulation, solar photovoltaics and air source heat pumps.
- Officers are currently working on a potential bid to wave 2.1 of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, which has recently opened. If successful, this will part fund improvement to in excess of 100 properties. A more detailed report is being prepared for consideration by Council in December 2022.

- We will be harnessing our local and regional expertise to identify the households that are most likely to be in fuel poverty and would best benefit from energy efficiency upgrades.
- Residents of Independent Living Schemes will continue to be encouraged to make use of their heated community rooms for activities that contribute to their mental and physical well-being

5.3 Private sector residents:

- In the longer term, all new housing developments by RBC will be A or A* EPC's.
- We will be undertaking a survey of council owned buildings to understand their capacity for delivering warm hubs, for example Libraries and Museums offering extended opening hours where possible.
- We will explore a contract with Act on Energy to provide increased and more targeted information to Rugby residents, support retrofitting advice to private households
- Our statement of intent in respect of Eco Flex (https://www.rugby.gov.uk/downloads/download/318/eco_flexible_eligibility_statement_of_intent) is being updated and will be further publicised to reflect the changes arising from Energy Company Obligation 4 (Eco 4).
- We will provide advice to private rented sector tenants and landlords on compliance with energy efficiency legislation and encourage tenants to contact officers if they feel landlords are failing in their duty

5.4 Financial Inclusion – the delivery of a new Financial Inclusion Strategy forms part of the Communities & Homes service plan. The strategy will consider how best to support residents across tenures. It will target activities to support those who are looking for work and those who need assistance/advice with money management, debt advice and new skills.

- The current funding of Brancab will provide Rugby residents with support including financial capability support, debt advice and benefits advice.
- We will signpost towards the governments 'MoneyHelper' programme (https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en?qclid=EA1aIQobChMI2rOyiIWA-wlVEbrtCh0_pwMdEAYASAAEgItYfD_BwE&qclsrc=aw.ds) providing free impartial advice on a range of financial matters.
- Working with partners, we will ensure that the income of all households is maximised through the provision of good quality information and support.
- We will ensure that residents are supported to proactively tackle problematic debt.
- We encourage customers to make early contact with the team to discuss any issues that they have in respect of paying their Council Tax. This will include signposting them to support to maximise their income or apply for a reduction, if appropriate. This helps us to ensure that arrangements to make payments are affordable.

- We will continue to support the BEAM project – a community interest company that looks to secure homeless and potentially homeless people into education and meaningful employment

5.5 Supporting the Third Sector - The cost-of-living crisis is a priority for the third sector in Rugby and Warwickshire. A huge amount of work is taking place across the Borough which includes:

- Support for Community Organisations, including those managing and running premises so that they maximise support to local communities.
- Working with our funded Community Associations to explore a warm hub network in Rugby.
- We will encourage the sector, along with businesses, to make known to us any designated warm spaces so that we can increase awareness to residents of their availability, along with other publicly accessible premises that can be used
- In Spring 2023, we will follow up with VCS groups and businesses offering warm spaces to get an understanding of take up of their use
- Working with WCAVA who are undertaking “health checks” with all of our funded Community Associations to understand their evolving needs.
- Working with WCAVA to plan a summit being to better understand the issues being faced by the VCS in terms of the cost of living.
- Sharing best practice and supporting our funded Community Associations to deliver localised projects, such as the Brownsover Winter Family Project, offering a hot meal and a warm space to do homework for families every evening.
- We will further explore how to work with WALC and Parish Councils to maximise the support which can be provided through their networks.
- Understand and promote our third sector partners’ bespoke package of support for residents over the festive period.

5.6 Working With Public Sector Partners - we will continue to work with NHS and local authority partners across the County and region to identify best practice and opportunities for joint working. Within this context, we will work with Warwickshire County Council to investigate and where appropriate support initiatives such as:

- Auto enrolment of children for free school meals
- The Household Support Scheme (via the local welfare scheme) <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme>
- a Warwickshire Cost-of-living Summit to be arranged with key stakeholders and partners to help address the current cost-of-living pressures.

6. SUPPORTING OUR STAFF

6.1 We also want to offer as much support to our staff as possible. To help towards this, we have produced a guide to free independent financial

information & support from a range of support organisations. This guide has been sent to all staff and is [available through our staff intranet](#).

6.2 We understand financial worries can impact emotional, physical and mental wellbeing, so have reminded staff we offer the following professional and support services:

- Counselling
- Occupational health
- Physiotherapy
- Confidential employee assistance helplines
- Dedicated staff resource regarding Mental Health support on Intranet
- Employee Network group
- Mental Health First Aiders

We have also refreshed our staff training offer and have new training that will equip staff to support vulnerable people in very challenging circumstances.

6.3 Consideration will be given to further means of supporting staff, including, but not limited to:

- Car pooling / Car sharing schemes.
- Targeted financial capability training.
- Hybrid working arrangements.
- Wellbeing conversations through toolbox talks and the 1:1 process.

7. FURTHER SUPPORT

7.1 The Council has submitted an Investment Plan to the Government for funding for the next 3 years under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This Investment Plan includes measures to support businesses, improve the town centre and to assist with the cost-of-living crisis.

7.2 The Council is also committed to improving the way we identify and apply for additional funds secured through a competitive bidding process. The Council has recently approved the appointment of a Bid Officer and the recruitment for this post is underway.

8. SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	DELIVERY TIMESCALE	RESPONSIBLE CHIEF OFFICER
Delivering Effective Communication	Develop and maintain support for the community web page, providing information for residents on the Council's website	Q3	Mike Connell

	Provide cost of living content within tenant newsletter	Q3	Michelle Dickson
	Develop business focussed page on Council's website	Q3	Mike Connell
	Utilise internal communication channels to signpost staff towards advice and practical support.	Q3	Mike Connell
	Utilise social media and other comms channels to provide timely information	Q3	Mike Connell
	Deliver specific Christmas campaign, relating to seasonal challenges	Q3	Mike Connell
	Provide a single point of contact for businesses	Q3	Nicola Smith
Empowering Staff	Provision of relevant training (Customer Care, Financial Wellbeing and Safeguarding) to contact centre staff	Q3	Mike Connell
	Provision of relevant training to housing staff	Q3	Michelle Dickson
	Provision of relevant training to PRS, Refuse and Grounds Maintenance Staff	S, M Q3	Clare Preston
	Investigate opportunities across all services for increased presence and welfare checks for residents / tenants	S, M Q3	Leadership Team
	Supplement in house expertise with access to external (including online) support and advice	Q3	Mike Connell
Working with Partners	Explore a contract with Act on Energy to provide increased and more targeted information to Rugby residents regarding energy efficiency and usage	Q3	Michelle Dickson
	Work with BRANCAB to provide appropriate support to residents including financial capability support, debt advice and benefits advice.	Q3 and Q4	Michelle Dickson
	Signpost residents towards the governments 'MoneyHelper' programme,	Q3	Mike Connell

	providing free impartial advice on a range of financial matters		
	Engage with the BEAM project to support homeless and potentially homeless people into education and meaningful employment	Q3 and Q4	Michelle Dickson
	Work with Community Organisations to provide targeted neighbourhood support	Q3 and Q4	Michelle Dickson
	Working with our funded Community Associations to explore a warm hub network in Rugby	Q3	Michelle Dickson
	Support WCAVA to undertake “health checks” of all of our funded Community Associations.	Q4	Michelle Dickson
	Support WCAVA to investigate / develop a summit for the local third sector	Q3	Michelle Dickson
	Further explore work with WALC and Parish Councils to maximise the support through their networks – for example warm hubs, information and advice, support over the festive season	Q3	Aftab Razzaq
	Explore with third sector partners a bespoke package of support for residents over the festive period.	Q3	Michelle Dickson
	Continue to work with local authority partners across the County and region to identify best practice and opportunities for joint working	Q3 and Q4	Leadership Team
Delivering Support	Audit of the energy efficiency of each council home	Q4	Michelle Dickson
	Install High Efficiency Boilers where it is appropriate to do so	Q4	Michelle Dickson
	Identify those households that are most likely to be in fuel poverty and benefit from energy efficiency upgrades.	Q3	Michelle Dickson

	Ensure that all new housing developments by RBC will be A or A* EPC's	Ongoing	Michelle Dickson
	Undertake a survey of council owned buildings to understand their capacity for delivering warm hubs	Q3	Leadership Team
	Provide advice to private rented sector tenants and landlords on compliance with energy efficiency legislation	Q3 and Q4	David Burrows/ Michelle Dickson
	Provide staff with a guide to free independent financial information & support from a range of support organisations	Q3	Mike Connell
	Ensure that staff are aware of professional and support services which are available	Q3	Mike Connell
	Consider further schemes to support staff including car sharing, financial capability training, hybrid working and targeted toolbox talks	Q3 and Q4	Leadership Team
	Refresh staff training offer to include training appropriate to cost of living pressures	Q3 and Q4	Leadership Team
	Use UKSPF money to target support for local businesses and our town centre	Q4	Nicola Smith
	Identify and bid for additional funding streams that can help support local businesses	M, L Q3 and Q4	Nicola Smith

Name of Meeting: Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 14 November 2022

Subject Matter: Cost-of-Living Crisis – Overarching Themes and Progress

Originating Department: Digital and Communications

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY **YES** **NO**

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

Appendix A – Cost of Living Report to Scrutiny November 2022

At the meeting of Council on 28 September 2022 there were a few questions raised about the response to the cost-of-living issues via notices of motion.

It was agreed that the appropriate route for this would be via the scrutiny committee. Below are the relevant extracts from section 34 of the minutes:

(b) “Volunteering and a strong voluntary sector, lie at the very heart of thriving communities, they empower and connect both the individual volunteer and the wider community.

This Council has a key role to play in supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector. Many people living in the borough are experiencing falling incomes, increases in energy prices and a general increase in the cost of living. This will lead to our volunteer sector be stretched far more than ever before.

We would therefore ask this Council to arrange a lead local summit with all of the key stakeholders to identify how we, the Council, can best support the local voluntary sector.”

(c – as amended) “Like all concerned citizens, the Labour Group is very worried about the impact of the new energy price cap on low-income households in Rugby. Many will not be able to heat their homes. The Last JSNA found that 13.4% of households in North Rugby were classed as fuel poor. That was in 2019 – one year before the pandemic, two years before we started to see rises in energy costs and three years before Putin invaded Ukraine and threatened Europe’s gas supplies. We accept that there is little the Council can do to alter these global economic shocks that will hit our residents this winter, but there are things it can do to help alleviate the effects.

The Labour Group therefore calls on Scrutiny Committee to:

- instruct officers to find out as a matter of urgency how many households in the borough are likely to have difficulty heating their home this winter (this will include council tenants, tenants in private rented accommodation, including HMOs and those who own their own home either through a mortgage or outright)
- instruct officers to undertake an urgent survey of council owned buildings to see which could be made available to residents unable to heat their homes as a “warm bank”
- promote the scheme to other organisations who own large publicly accessible buildings such as the FE college, and leisure centres and for officers to work with villages and parish councils to see what can be done in rural areas
- instruct officers to undertake a publicity campaign aimed at vulnerable residents to make them aware of where they can go to keep warm during the winter, alerting them to sources of help with heating bills such as the Warm Homes Discount and signposting to organisations who can help with fuel debt and supported payments such as CAB and other advice

Organisations

- instruct officers to conduct an evaluation of the scheme and report back to full council next spring/summer on the effectiveness of the publicity campaign and the use of the scheme, how many children under 18 were impacted, how many adults under 65 and how many people over 65.”

(i-as amended) “Council requests that the Scrutiny Committee considers all strategies drive towards helping residents and reduce fuel poverty in the Borough. This could be achieved by:

1. continuing to improve the energy efficiency of all the Borough’s housing stock
2. stronger enforcement of existing regulations on energy efficiency and property standards, particularly in the private rented sector
3. publishing a statement of intent and setting locally appropriate eligibility criteria to access Energy Company Obligation funding via the Local Authority Flexibility arrangements (as managed by Ofgem)
4. seeking and leveraging in extra funds to improve the energy efficiency standards of all housing
5. maximising the incomes of low-income households through the efficient delivery of Council-administered benefits, sensitive recovery of debt and the provision of advice and support
6. holding a summit with all partners including other local authorities to put in place an action plan that supports residents who are struggling with the increased costs.
7. working in partnership with local community groups in supporting vulnerable residents.

We also request that the Scrutiny Committee reports on progress on tackling the cost-of-living increases on residents to all Members.”

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
Name of Committee:	Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	14 November 2022
Contact Officer:	Linn Ashmore, Democratic Services Officer, Tel: 01788 533522
Summary:	The report updates the Committee on the progress of task group reviews within its remit and details the overview and scrutiny forward work programme.
Financial Implications:	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Risk Management Implications:	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
Environmental Implications:	There are no environmental implications arising from this report.
Legal Implications:	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
Equality and Diversity:	No new or existing policy or procedure has been recommended.

Scrutiny Committee - 14 November 2022

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Summary

The report updates the Committee on the progress of task group reviews within its remit and details the overview and scrutiny forward work programme.

1. CURRENT REVIEWS

1.2 Access to Emergency Health Care Provision

The revised draft scoping paper is included at item 5 of the agenda.

1.3 Managing Council Tax Arrears

The outcomes of the review will be reported to the Committee on completion of the work of the task group.

2. WORK PROGRAMME

2.1 Current Work Programme

A copy of the current work programme is attached at Appendix 1.

3. FORWARD PLAN

The topics currently listed in the Forward Plan for the period December 2022 – March 2023 are available to download [Here](#)

4. CONCLUSION

The committee is asked to consider and agree the future work programme.

Name of Meeting: Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting: 14 November 2022
Subject Matter: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY **YES** **NO**

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

Date of meeting 2021/22	Item	Description
All meetings	Motions referred to scrutiny	
All meetings	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	Long-term rolling work programme.
14 November 2022	Cost of Living – Themes and Progress	Report from the Chief Officer for Digital and Communications.
14 November 2022	Review of Access to Emergency Health Care	Revised scoping paper.
30 January 2023	Discussion with Portfolio Holder/s and Chief Officer/s	Communities, Homes, Digital and Communications Portfolio Holder and Chief Officers for Communities and Homes, and Digital and Communications to attend.
27 March 2023	Discussion with Portfolio Holder/s and Chief Officer/s	Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder and the Chief Officer for Health and Wellbeing to attend (to be confirmed).
27 March 2023	Discussion with Portfolio Holder/s and Chief Officer/s	Finance, Performance, Legal and Governance Portfolio Holder and Chief Officers for Finance and Performance and Legal and Governance to attend (to be confirmed).

Items to be scheduled

Item	Report Description/Notes
Review of Managing Arrears (Council Tax)	Progress or final review report.
Annual review of Member training and development	Annual overview.
Motions to Council	Progress of Motions submitted to Council.
Review of Communication	To include internal and external communication.

Future work programme Items carried over from 2020/21 to be scheduled

Topic	Timescale	Notes
Health and Wellbeing	To be agreed	Linked to recovery of the Covid-19 pandemic. A place-based Health and Wellbeing Strategy had initial conversations between the Chief Officer for Leisure & Wellbeing and Chief Officer Communities & Homes to outline the development of the new strategy. External advice is currently being sought to support the development of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership arrangements and the creation of a Place-based Rugby strategy.
Digital Inclusion	To be agreed	The IT and Digital Strategy was considered and adopted by Council on 19 July 2022.