



Welcome to the Overview and Scrutiny Newsletter September 2024

Find out what the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel have planned for the next month.

Overview & Scrutiny Development Plan

The Corporate and Finance O&S Committee considered a draft of the Scrutiny Development Plan at the meeting in July. Following feedback from Committee members, Corporate Leadership Team and Informal Cabinet a final draft will be considered at the Committee meeting on 27 September.

This builds on the work undertaken in 2023/24 to enable flexible and effective Scrutiny, the recommendations of the Council's Governance Stabilisation Plan and subsequent work by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS).

The plan does not duplicate the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes but seeks to set out the principles and priorities that will demonstrate how Overview and Scrutiny contributes to the Council's improvement journey and delivery of the Improvement and Recovery Plan.

The plan sets out:

- The priorities that should be considered when agreeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programmes.
- Different approaches that Overview and Scrutiny Committees can use to carry out their work.
- Plans for Learning and Development for members undertaking Overview and Scrutiny.
- How the outcomes of Scrutiny work will be demonstrated.



The report to the Corporate and Finance Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 September to consider the Overview and Scrutiny Development Plan is available from [CMIS > Meetings](#)

Corporate & Finance O&S Committee

Information Task and Finish Group: The Task and Finish Group was established by Coordinating OSC in May 2024 and the work has continued under the Corporate and Finance OSC. Following the work to address issues identified in the Council's Governance Stabilisation Plan and subsequent work by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) it was agreed that the Task and Finish Group would look at how to develop a sustainable approach to information sharing / management which gives members confidence that they can maintain a watching brief over emerging issues to inform the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The report of the Task and Finish Group will be considered by the Corporate and Finance OSC on 27 September.

Scrutiny of Savings: A Task and Finish Group meeting was held in July to consider the implications of the 2024/25 budget savings within the Committee's terms of reference. Recommendations from the Task and Finish Group meeting will be considered by the Corporate and Finance OSC on 27 September. Recommendations agreed will be considered by Cabinet in October.

Finance Scrutiny: The Committee has considered the Section 151 Officers reports to Cabinet in July and September. The July report included the progress in the delivery of savings and the September report provided an opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny. The Committee agreed comments that were considered by Cabinet on 10 September.



Briefing on Job Evaluation Programme and Oracle Re-implementation: A briefing for members of the Committee was held to update on the programmes and consider how this will be included in the Committee's work programme.

Briefing on the revised Corporate Plan and the Shaping Birmingham's Future Together Commission: Members received an update on the Shaping Birmingham Future Together consultation and how this will inform the development of the revised Corporate Plan.

Budget Scrutiny Task and Finish Group: Members considered the 24/25 budget pressures in Adult Social Care, Children and Families and Housing (Temporary Accommodation) and implications for the 25/26 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Future work:

Savings Delivery: Further reports on the delivery of 24/25 savings within the Committee's Terms of Reference will be considered on 27 September and 20 December 2024.

Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP) Programme Progress Report: The Committee will receive reports on the delivery of IRP Programmes within the Committee's Terms of Reference at the meetings on 27 September and 20 December 2024.

Work of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA): The Committee will receive reports from the WMCA at the November Committee meeting for across the region



and at the March Committee meeting, which will focus on work of the WMCA in Birmingham.

Finance Scrutiny: The Committee will continue to scrutinise the Council's financial position and consider the Medium-Term Financial Plan Refresh and Quarter 2 of the Financial Year, the Provisional Financial Outturn (2023/24) at the November Committee meeting. The Committee will also consider the 2025/26 Budget Proposals in January 2025.

Economy, Skills & Culture O&S Committee

Scrutiny of the Asset Disposal Programme has continued to be a major focus. The Committee undertook Pre-Decision scrutiny on the sales of Peddimore, Perry Barr residential and the council offices on Woodcock Street before they were considered by Cabinet Committee - Property. Further to this, the Committee has also continued to receive a quarterly report on the overall progress of the Asset Disposal programme. In August, the Committee received a briefing on the Corporate Asset Rationalisation programme. The Committee has also received an initial briefing followed by a workshop to inform the development of the Place Based Plan. Finally, the Committee has considered the impact of the 24/25 savings within its Terms of Reference.

Over the next 3 months, the Committee has agreed to:

- Continue with its scrutiny of the Asset Disposal programme.
- Consider how to build upon its briefing on the Corporate Asset Rationalisation programme.
- Review progress on its Employment and Skills Inquiry.
- Scrutinise the progress towards achieving budget savings.



Education, Children and Young People O&S Committee

In June, Members visited the City of Birmingham School (COBS) and gained a greater understanding of their work to meet the needs of young people, and the outcomes are being used to inform the work of the Committee. At the July meeting, Members undertook pre-decision scrutiny and considered the draft Birmingham School Attendance Strategy 2024-2028 prior to discussion at Cabinet. In addition, at the July T&F meeting, and in line with all OSCs, Members considered the impact of the delivery of the 2024/25 savings and the delivery of the Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP) Programme within the committee's Terms of Reference. The recommendations from this will be discussed at the Corporate and Finance OSC committee meeting. Members will continue to consider the delivery of the 2024/25 savings and make recommendations and be involved in the delivery of the improvement and Recovery Plan.

Forthcoming Meetings:

23 October 2024 at 10am in Committee Rooms 3&4

Members will be discussing and making recommendations on: the update on the Birmingham Youth Justice Plan 2023-2028, Children and Young Peoples' Travel Service (CYPTS), and the delivery of savings and delivery of the IRP Programme within the Committee's terms of reference.

4 December 2024 at 10am in Committee Rooms 3&4

The SEND Commissioner will be providing an update on SEND Improvement, Members will be discussing and making recommendations on the Improving Services for Children and Families Plan and discussing the progress report on the Implementation of the Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) Inquiry Recommendations.



22 January 2025 at 10am in Committee Rooms 3&4

Members will be discussing and making recommendations in relation to children's safeguarding in the city and the Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership will be presenting their 2022/23 and 2023/24 annual reports. In addition, Members will be discussing and making recommendations on the delivery of the 2024/25 savings and the Improving Services for Children & Families Programme within the Committee's terms of reference.

Homes O&S Committee

The Committee has considered the Council's progress towards achieving regulatory compliance through City Housing's quarterly report. With the introduction of national performance measures around tenant satisfaction, the Committee considered Tenant Satisfaction and how information from tenants is now being used to inform and improve service delivery. As part of this, the Committee was pleased to welcome a tenant to this discussion to provide their perspective. The Committee has completed pre-decision scrutiny on the proposed Repairs and Maintenance contract decision. The Committee has also considered information on the current progress of the Druids Heath regeneration scheme. Finally, it has considered the impact of the 24/25 savings within its Terms of Reference.

Over the next 3 months, the Committee has agreed to:

- Continue with its scrutiny for regulatory compliance.
- Review progress on the Exempt Accommodation inquiry.
- Consider the Council's performance on rent revenues, disrepair and stock conditions.
- Scrutinise the progress towards achieving budget savings.



Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) O&S Committee

The HASC OSC held a Task and Finish Scrutiny meeting in July on the implications of the 2024/25 savings within the Committee's terms of reference as agreed in the Council's budget. The Committee also engaged with external organisations Healthwatch Birmingham and Forward Carers to inform this work. Recommendations from the July Task and Finish Group meeting will be considered by the Corporate and Finance OSC on 27 September. Recommendations agreed will be considered by Cabinet.

During 2023/24, one of the key issues for the HASC OSC Committee has been its scrutiny of the Birmingham & Solihull NHS Trust decision regarding the temporary relocation of Warren Farm Urgent Care Treatment Centre to another location due to health and safety concerns. Scrutiny ensured that statutory process of engagement was adhered to by the Trust as part of the decision-making. The Committee received reports from the NHS Trust's Chief Delivery Officer. HASC OSC's scrutiny of the engagement process helped influence the thinking of the NHS Trust in terms impact on service users and issues for the Trust to take into consideration in its decision in relation to the move. The move has now taken place and members continue to receive updates on service provision arrangements at the new location in Erdington.

A HASC OSC pre-decision meeting on the Days Opportunities (Day Centres) review was held in July. The Committee had been involved in this area of work for some time. The recommendations agreed by the Committee, focusing on the impact of proposed changes on citizens and carers, will be reported to Cabinet in October.



At the September HASC OSC meeting, members approved the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between the council and the Integrated Care Board and NHS Trust for Birmingham & Solihull. This clarifies the role of Health Scrutiny, specifically in regard to consultations on substantial variations and developments of health services following the changes to the Health Scrutiny Guidance, in line with the Health and Social Care Act 2022. The MoU was also shared with both Joint Health & Social Care Scrutiny committees with Solihull and Sandwell. The MoU has also been shared as best practice with other networks in the West Midlands region. The meeting also considered the reports from the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the NHS on the implementation of recommendations of the scrutiny inquiry into children and young people mental health services.

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees

The first Birmingham and Sandwell Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC) met on 16 September. Main point of discussion was on the opening of the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH) in Sandwell. The committee have scrutinised this major hospital project, including visits to the new site last municipal year. The Committee was informed that Sandwell patients will move to the new hospital on 6 October, Maternity and Neonates will move on 6 November and City Hospital patients will move on 10 November. If members would like more information about the new hospital an information pack is available – please contact adewale.fashade@birmingham.gov.uk.

Birmingham and Solihull Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny meeting (JHOSC) 26 September: The Committee will meet at Solihull MBC, 6.00pm in the Council Chamber and will consider a report on the proposed review of Urgent Care Treatment Centres within Birmingham & Solihull.



Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) OSC at 2pm, 16 October in Committee Rooms 3&4

Committee will receive update on delivery of 2024/25 savings and IRP Programmes within the Committee's terms of reference and also consider the Quality Report from the Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care Board.

Neighbourhoods O&S Committee

In line with all OSCs, Members considered the impact of the delivery of the 2024/25 savings and the delivery of the Improvement and Recovery Plan (IRP) within the committee's terms of reference at the July T&F meeting. The recommendations from this will be discussed at the Corporate and Finance OSC committee meeting. Members will continue to consider the delivery of the 2024/25 savings and make recommendations and be involved in the delivery of the improvement and Recovery Plan in relation to the Street Management Programme within the IRP.

Forthcoming Meetings:

16 October 2024 at 2pm in Committee Room 6

Members will be discussing and making recommendations on the Street Management Programme, and the delivery of savings and IRP Transformation Programme within the Committee's terms of reference.

27 November 2024 at 2pm in Committee Room 2

Members will be undertaking pre-decision scrutiny and discussing the Transformation of Neighbourhood Advice and Information Services and Community Libraries budget saving prior to discussion at Cabinet. Members will also be discussing and making recommendations on the review of parks, including the review principles,



the local parks' transformational key elements, the external funding, and the role of friends' groups and other volunteers.

Sustainability and Transport O&S Committee

The Committee has been focused on the final stages of its evidence gathering for its Road Safety inquiry. This is scheduled for Council later this year. The Committee has also received information on the current position for Highways Maintenance and Management.

Over the next 3 months, the Committee has agreed to:

- Undertake pre-decision scrutiny on the proposed Road Harm Reduction Strategy.
- Consider the work undertaken by the Council around Highway permits.
- Consider work undertaken around Net Zero.
- Scrutinise the progress towards achieving budget savings.

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

Birmingham members: Councillor Rashad Mahmood, Councillor Gareth Moore, Councillor Izzy Knowles.

Over the Summer members attended an induction training session covering the role of the Panel and key statutory and scrutiny responsibilities.

22 July 2024 - The first meeting of the Panel conducted a confirmation hearing for the appointment of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner - Wasim Ali to assess his suitability for the role. The Panel recommended the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) proceed with his appointment. The PCC also outlined his preparations for the



new Police and Crime Plan and members examined his plans for public consultation.

On 7 October the Panel will examine the Commissioner's draft police and crime plan, seeking reassurances that it reflects local needs. The PCC's statement of accounts will also be presented to inform the Panel as it continues to monitor the resources and budget planning by the Commissioner.

Also in October, a panel subgroup will examine the performance metrics associated with the new police and crime plan and provide comment on the PCC proposals to improve public visibility of performance data.

In December the Panel will review the PCC's Annual Report. It is a statutory requirement of the panel to provide comments and recommendations for the Commissioner to consider when finalising the document.

Feedback

If you would like to be involved in discussions about how best we can communicate the work of Overview and Scrutiny Committees to members please email adewale.fashade@birmingham.gov.uk and we will arrange discussions in the next few months.



Meetings at a Glance

Corporate & Finance



Councillor Sir Albert Bore, Chair

Friday 27th September, 10.30am, Committee Rooms 3&4

Friday 25th October, 10.30am, Committee Rooms 3&4

Friday 22nd November, 10.30am, Committee Rooms 3&4

Friday 20th December, 10.30am, Committee Rooms 3&4

Economy, Skills & Culture



Councillor Katherine Iroh, Chair

Wednesday 16th October, 10am, Committee Room 6

Wednesday 27th November, 10am, Committee Room 6

Education, Children and Young People



Councillor Kerry Jenkins, Chair



Wednesday 23rd October, 10am, Committee Rooms 3&4

Wednesday 4th December, 10am, Committee Rooms 3&4

Health and Social Care



Councillor Fred Grindrod, Chair

Wednesday 16th October, 2pm, Committee Rooms 3&4

Wednesday 4th December, 2pm, Committee Room 6

Homes



Councillor Jamie Tennant, Chair

Thursday 24th October, 2pm, Committee Rooms 3&4

Thursday 5th December, 2pm, Committee Room 6

Neighbourhoods



Cllr Shabrana Hussain, Chair

Wednesday 16th October, 2pm, Committee Room 6



Wednesday 27th November, 2pm, Committee Room 2

Sustainability and Transport



Councillor Lee Marsham, Chair

Thursday 7th November, 2pm, Committee Room 6

Thursday 12th December, 2pm, Committee Rooms 3&4

West Midlands Police and Crime Panel



Councillor Jasbir Jaspal, Chair

Monday 7th October, 2pm, Solihull Council House

Monday 10th December, 2pm, Wolverhampton Council House