



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 7

Report title: Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: 23 August 2021

Public report: Yes

From: Anne Gardiner
Governance Manager

Recommendations: The Committee to discuss and agree items for the work programme and their prioritisation, and to comment as appropriate on what resources may be required.

1. Purpose

1.1 To ask the committee to discuss and make suggestions on the work programme.

2. Background

2.1 In accordance with the Constitution, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme.

2.2 One of the recommendations from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny review carried out into the Overview and Scrutiny Committee arrangements suggested that an understanding of the new Mayor's emerging priorities should be sought to help inform the committees work programme and that regular informal work programming sessions should be held which would be informed by the Chair/MO/Mayor discussions.

2.3 The Chair and Vice-Chair for the Committee met with the Mayor on the 4th August and discussions were had around the Mayor's priorities with four topics being raised:

- 1) Climate Change
- 2) Public Health
- 3) Financial fairness in the distribution of funds across the Combined Authority region.

4) The measure of compassion in the Mayor's policies.

2.4 The Committee are requested to consider these four themes when considering their work programme.

2.5 The review findings also advised that work programming discussions for the Committee should lead to the use of information to identify one or two substantive items per committee agenda, consideration of which could benefit from external witnesses or the consideration of evidence wider than just officer reports. Scrutiny would discuss matters of strategic concern to the CA and the wider area – linked to Mayoral priorities and decision-making but not directly to the run of decisions in the forward plan.

2.6 In considering items for their work programme the Committee are requested to take into account the guidance published by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) 'Overview and scrutiny in combined authorities: a plain English guide' (Second Edition) which states:

“That where the Committee takes a rigorous approach to prioritising its work, and only placing items on the work programme where they will clearly add value, and where they relate to scrutiny's role, the work programme will reflect that exercise.”

2.7 That guidance continues with a section on approaches to shortlisting topics which states when shortlisting topics these “should reflect scrutiny's overall role in the authority. This will require the development of bespoke, local solutions, however when considering whether an item should be included in the work programme”. The kind of questions a scrutiny committee should consider, therefore, might include:

- Do we understand the benefits scrutiny would bring to this issue?
- How could we best carry out work on this subject?
- What would be the best outcome of this work?
- How would this work engage with the activity of the executive and other decision-makers, including partners?

2.8 The committee should consider the items listed in 2.6 and 2.7 when determining the work programme.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 No financial implications

4. Legal Implications

4.1 No legal implications.

5. Appendices

5.1 None