



## Report to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Thursday 19<sup>TH</sup> April 2018

**Report of:** Policy and Improvement Officer

**Subject:** Work Programme Review 2017/18, Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

**Author of Report:** Emily Standbrook-Shaw, Policy and Improvement Officer  
[emily.standbrook-shaw@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:emily.standbrook-shaw@sheffield.gov.uk)  
 0114 273 5065

### Summary:

This report provides the Committee with a summary of its activities over the municipal year for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18. The Committee is asked to consider and comment on this document (Appendix A).

### Type of item:

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	<b>X</b>

### The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18 - Consider and comment on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee draft content - Appendix A

**Background Papers:** None  
**Category of Report:** OPEN

## Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee – work programme review 2017/18, scrutiny annual report 2017/18

### 1.0 Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

- Each Scrutiny Committee will produce a summary of their activity over the past municipal year, for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18. A draft of this Committee’s activity is attached - please see Appendix A.
- The Annual Report will also include an overview of the role of scrutiny within the authority and a summary of some of the activities and outcomes across the five Scrutiny Committees.
- The full list of topics considered by this Committee during 2017-18 is outlined below:

<b>Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee List of topics 2017/18</b>	
Annual Performance Update	July 2017
Medium Term Financial Analysis	October 2017
Workbased Development and Wellbeing	November 2017
Director of Public Health Report for Sheffield	November 2017
Call-in – Treasury Management Mid Year Review, including an amendment to the Council’s Minimum Revenue Provision Policy	January 2018
Revenue Budget 2018/19	January 2018
Revenue Budget and Capital Programme 2018/19	February 2018
Devolution to Sheffield City Region	February 2018
Customer Experience	April 2018
Ethical Procurement	April 2018

### 2.0 The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- **Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18** - Consider and comment on the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee draft content - **Appendix A**

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2017/18

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## 1. **Chair:** Cllr Chris Peace

**Remit of the Committee:** Lead the scrutiny of high level cross-cutting and city-wide issues – appointing joint committees where appropriate; Scrutinise the use of Council resources – Resources Portfolio, budget monitoring, annual budget setting process; Performance monitoring – referring areas of concern to the relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee where appropriate.

## 2. **Highlights from the work of the Committee in 2017/18 include:**

**Annual Budget Setting Process** – For 2017/18 the Committee wanted to take an earlier look at the budget setting process than it has in the past. An extra meeting was added to the schedule in January for the Committee to consider the process that was being undertaken to put the budget proposals together, including the public consultation. The Committee then met again in February to consider the draft budget proposals. The Committee reported to Cabinet that it believed the precarious financial position that Councils find themselves in is due to the approach of central government; that the national crisis in social care is driving many of the difficult decisions that councils are having to make locally and expressed concerns about the longer term sustainability of local government without changes in how central government chooses to fund councils. The Committee also acknowledged the valuable contribution of the Council's front line staff and volunteers and community groups in the city. The Committee has agreed to include greater oversight of the budget in its work programme for 2018/19, including in-year monitoring and the process for putting together next year's budget proposals. Cabinet welcomed this approach.

**Sheffield City Region Devolution** – The Committee was keen to hear about the current state of Sheffield City Region Devolution and so held a single item agenda meeting in February to hear from the Leader and Chief Executive of Sheffield City Council, the Managing Director of the City Region, and a Board Member from the Local Enterprise Partnership. The Committee was keen to understand the impact of the Barnsley and Doncaster position on the devolution deal, and how plans to inform the public about the forthcoming City Region Mayoral election are shaping up. They also wanted to understand the role of the Mayor, the support and facilities available for the Mayor's office, and the process and possible timelines for agreeing the Mayor's powers.

**Work based Wellbeing and Development** – The Committee met in November to consider work based development and wellbeing, to contribute to the development of the workforce strategy. The Committee made several suggestions for inclusion in the

strategy including; adequate mental health training for all staff, ensuring new initiatives work for all staff – including those not in ‘office based, office hours ‘ roles, and encouraging and enabling staff to complete the workforce survey. The Committee was keen to see that Trade Unions were involved and engaged in developing and implementing the strategy, and that the organisation provides an environment that encourages conversations around development and equips managers with the skills and capacity to have those conversations. The Committee felt that there was a pressing need to ensure that there are a range of options for whistleblowing, and for staff to report harassment, bullying and victimisation so that individuals can choose the reporting method that is most comfortable for them; and that there should be a way of escalating issues that is independent of the Council.

**Call-in of the Executive Director of Resources' Decision on the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review, including an Amendment to the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy** - In January, Councillors called- in this decision. Their reason for calling it in was to ‘further scrutinise the decision made, that will have serious financial consequences for future budgets’. The Committee heard from the Executive Director of Resources and the Cabinet Member for Finance. The Committee was assured that the amendment to the Minimum Revenue Provision was prudent, and decided to take no action in relation to the call-in, but did recommend that the Council’s Audit and Standards Committee discuss the changes with the Council’s external auditors as part of its work programme.