

Report to Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

13 November 2023

Subject:	Cabinet Forward Plan and Board Work Programme
Director:	Law and Governance Surjit Tour Surjir_tour@sandwell.gov.uk
Contact Officer:	Connor Robinson Democratic Services Officer Connor1_robinson@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board notes the Cabinet Forward Plan (Appendix 1), which sets out the matters programmed to be considered by the Cabinet;
- 1.2 that the Board notes its work programme (Appendix 2), which sets out matters to be considered by the Board in 2023/24;
- 1.3 that, the Board considers whether any changes or additions are required to its work programme and in doing so, has regard to the Prioritisation Tool (Appendix 3).



2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 A strong and effective work programme underpins the work and approach of Scrutiny.
- 2.2 It is good practice for work programmes to remain fluid, to allow for scrutiny of new and emerging issues in a timely manner.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people	The scrutiny function supports all of the objectives of the Corporate Plan by seeking to improve services for the people of Sandwell. It does this by influencing the policies and decisions made by the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services.
	People live well and age well	
	Strong resilient communities	
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods	
	A strong and inclusive economy	
	A connected and accessible Sandwell	

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Scrutiny is a member led and driven function, driven by members' commitment to improve services and thereby people's lives.
- 4.2 An annual work programming event, involving chief officers, executive members and key partners, was held in June 2023 and all boards approved their work programmes for 2023/24 at their first meeting of the municipal year.



- 4.3 Boards have responsibility for their own work programmes, and it is good practice to keep them under review, to allow for new and emerging issues to be scrutinised in a timely manner.
- 4.4 Scrutiny Procedure Rules allow any member of the Council to request that an item is added to a scrutiny board’s work programme, subject to certain provisions.
- 4.5 Before including an item on its work programme the Board must have regard to the Prioritisation Tool attached at Appendix 3, to ensure that the scrutiny activity will add value and work programmes are manageable.

5 Implications

Resources:	Any resources implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet. Any specific resource implications for the Board’s attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Legal and Governance:	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on the Executive to respond to Scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them. NHS service commissioners and providers have a duty to respond in writing to a report or recommendation where health scrutiny requests this, within 28 days of the request. This applies to requests from individual health scrutiny committees or sub-committees, from local authorities and from joint health scrutiny committees or sub-committees.
Risk:	Any risk implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet. Any specific risk implications for the Board’s attention are detailed in the Appendix.



Equality:	Any equality implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet. Any specific equality implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Health and Wellbeing:	Any health and wellbeing implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet. Any specific health and wellbeing implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Social Value:	Any social value implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet. Any specific social value implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Climate Change:	Any climate change implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet. Any specific climate change implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Corporate Parenting:	Any corporate parenting implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet. Any specific corporate parenting implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.

6 Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Cabinet Forward Plan
- Appendix 2 – Board Work Programme
- Appendix 3 – Prioritisation Tool

7. Background Papers

None.

