

Overview and Scrutiny Update



May - October 2020

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

Pre-decision Scrutiny

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in its pre-decision scrutiny work has examined the following reports and made recommendations in advance of them being considered by Cabinet.

- Financial support for older people's residential care homes during the covid-19 pandemic
- Financial support for learning disability day opportunity providers during the covid-19 pandemic
- Autism Strategy
- Support Services for Adult Survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation: Commissioning and Procurement Approach
- Finance Update and Budget Monitoring Report
- Covid-19 Discretionary Business Grants Scheme
- Financial Outturn 2019-20
- Community Energy Switching Scheme
- Consultation on Public Spaces Protection Orders - Town Centre and Borough Wide Dog Fouling
- The Year Ahead
- Voluntary Sector Infrastructure
- Advice Review and Advice Services Service Level Agreement
- Annual Housing Development Report
- Town Centre Public Spaces Protection Order, and a Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order
- Libraries Strategy
- Towns Fund - Town Investment Plan

Other Scrutiny work

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has also carried out other scrutiny work based on its Work Programme for 2020/21.

The Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, as always covers a diverse range of topics within its remit, but also reflects the many issues surrounding the current pandemic, including its impact on the Council and the services that it delivers and also on its impact on the residents of the Borough. The Overview and Scrutiny Management's Board Work Programme for 2020/21 is attached at **Appendix 1**.

In the current municipal year, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has scrutinised reports and made recommendations on.

- Response to the recommendations from the sickness absence workshop
- Children's Placement Projections
- Adult Care: Budget Forecast and Savings Update
- Safer Rotherham Partnership Annual Report
- Customer and Digital Programme - Progress report

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Sub and Project Group Work

In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meetings, members are also currently carrying out work in project groups on:

- **Council Communications** - This group is looking to review how residents access council services and to look at how the way that services are accessed by residents has changed during the pandemic. The sub-group will be looking for assurance that services are and will continue to be accessible by all residents as more services are delivered online.
- **Equalities** - The Council's Year Ahead plan contains a commitment to carry out a comprehensive review of equalities and social justice in order to fully understand equality issues in Rotherham and to identify how the council can make a measurable difference in this area. A project group has been established to enable Overview and Scrutiny Management Board members to feed into this review.

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Health Select Commission

Scrutiny work

The Health Select Commission has also carried out a wide-ranging programme of scrutiny work based on its Work Programme for 2020/21.

The Work Programme for the Health Select Commission reflects the priorities of improving health and health care for all residents in the Borough. The Health Select Commission Work Programme for 2020/21 is attached at **Appendix 2**.

In the current municipal year, Members of the Health Select Commission have scrutinised reports and made recommendations on:

The Department of Public Health Annual Report - Continued work will be needed from Members, stakeholders and partners to address the following areas:

- Reducing Smoking Pregnancy Rates
- Improving diet and nutrition
- Promoting physical activity
- Increasing breastfeeding prevalence
- Increasing Ages and States Questionnaire - 3
- Improving air pollution
- Referring to Public Health Commissioned Services, Get Healthy Rotherham, Drug and Alcohol Services as well as supporting Early Years and 0-19 Integrated PH Nursing

A briefing was also requested from the Director of Public Health RMBC's response to the use/misuse of Nitrous Oxide.

The Marmot Review 10 Years On - Members made the following recommendations to feed into the important work on this topic currently underway by the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- That partner organisations and officers of the Council in areas such as Communications and in Culture, Sport and Tourism be consulted in the development of alternative strategies for public engagement to promote health through arts and cultural initiatives.
- That the Health and Wellbeing Board identify and consider environmental implications that uniquely affect post-industrial areas of Rotherham as well as policy implications, such as selective licensing and social inclusion policies, which may affect health and wellbeing of Borough residents.
- That mitigating poverty be an ongoing priority in the short and long term of all plans and strategies of the Council as appropriate, and the efforts to mitigate poverty be documented and publicised.
- That the Health and Wellbeing Board develop plans and identify actions to address declining health outcomes for women.

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The Carer's Framework For the Future 2020-21 - Members requested that the results of the Carer's Strategy Review and plans for recovery of the Carer's Centre be submitted for scrutiny with a goal of contributing to the new strategy, but it should be noted that this review will be delayed due to COVID. It was further recommended that ways of increasing digital connectivity and skills for carers be explored, particularly to support young carers.

The Commission also monitored progress regarding:

- Adults 65+, Care Homes and Quality Review,
- Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight,
- Prevention/Loneliness Strategy,
- Ophthalmology Services
- Maternity Services
- Respiratory Services
- Transformation of GPs and Primary Care Networks
- Fitter, Better Sooner
- Winter Surge and COVID-19 Planning
- updates on the work of various partner organisations including TRFT and Healthwatch.

Sub and Project Group Work

In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in Health Select Commission meetings, Members are also currently carrying out work in project groups on:

- **The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT)** - This sub-group met initially in February to scrutinise the quality account of services and care provided by Rotherham Hospital. The sub-group again convened on 2 November 2020 and made recommendations toward the improvement of patient safety and staff morale which will be included in the forthcoming TRFT Quality Account for 2020-21.
- **South Yorkshire Doncaster and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Scrutiny Commission (SYDNo JHOSC)** - The Chair of the Health Select Commission represents the Members at this regional Joint Scrutiny Commission which scrutinises the delivery of health care services and policy at the regional level. At the September meeting, the Chair of the Health Select Commission recommended that more robust efforts be made to include BAME communities in patient consultations regarding social prescribing and gluten free foods.
- **COVID-19 Workshop** - This one-off group met to discuss the response of various services and partners to the pandemic. Outcomes from this workshop included the recommendation that residents download and install the Rotherham Health App as they are able. Deep gratitude to colleagues and health partners at the hospital and in care homes caring for patients during the pandemic were expressed in the recommendations as well.

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Improving Lives Select Commission

Scrutiny work

The Work Programme for the Improving Lives Select Commission, as always covers a diverse range of topics within its remit, but also reflects the many issues surrounding the current pandemic, including its impact on the Council and the services that it delivers and also on its impact on the residents of the Borough. The Improving Lives Select Commission's Work Programme for 2020/21 is attached at **Appendix 3**.

In the current municipal year, the Improving Lives Select Commission has scrutinised reports and made recommendations on:

- The Council's response to Domestic Abuse during the pandemic
- How the Improving Lives Select Commission monitors performance indicators across the Children and Young People's Services Directorate
- Re-referrals and repeat child protection planning
- Youth Offending Team
- Looked After Children Sufficiency Strategy
- Provision of the Children's social care service during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Elective Home Education
- Rotherham Education Strategic Partnership
- Domestic Abuse Strategy

Sub and Project Group Work

In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in Improving Lives Select Commission meetings, members are also currently carrying out work in project groups on:

- **The impact of school closures during the pandemic** - The review will be involving young people across Rotherham to enable members to further understand the impact of school closures due to COVID19 on Rotherham pupils and to identify future areas for scrutiny work.
- **CSE - Post Abuse Support** - The review will build on the benchmarking work that members of the commission carried out in 2019 where provision in Rotherham was compared to provision made by councils in other areas.
- **Liquid Logic** - This one-off spotlight review will provide members with assurance that the case management system used across Children's Social Care is enabling robust case management and supporting social work teams to effectively manage caseloads as they work to support children and families.
- **Review of the Early Help Service** - This review will look at how since the implementation of the new structure of the service in 2019 the changes to the service have impacted on service delivery and the outcomes for children and families.
- **Holiday Hunger and Food Poverty** - This review will look at the challenges of food poverty and holiday hunger across Rotherham, the provision that already exists to

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support people who are going hungry across the Borough and the role of the Council in supporting efforts to combat the problem.

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Improving Places Select Commission

Scrutiny work

The Improving Places Select Commission has also carried out a wide-ranging programme of scrutiny work based on its Work Programme for 2020/21.

The Work Programme for the Improving Places Select Commission reflects the priorities of improving and revitalising the environment in the Borough and making Rotherham a better place to live. The Improving Places Select Commission Work Programme for 2020/21 is attached at **Appendix 4**.

In the current municipal year, the Improving Places Select Commission has made recommendations on:

- **Housing Strategy 2019 - 2022 Progress Update** - The recommendations were made that, when the Social Value Policy is presented for review by Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, the Housing-specific issues be highlighted within that report. That the Housing-related elements of the COVID-19 recovery plan be considered for scrutiny.
- **Housing Revenue Account - Rents and Service Charges - Response to the pandemic and future provision** - Members recommended that the outcome of the Advice Service Review be circulated as part of the next update in respect of Rents and Service Charges.
- **Town Centre Masterplan Update** - Members requested that attention be given to accessibility and accessible parking in the plans for the new facilities and interventions in the Town Centre.
- **Bereavement Services** - Members noted that the permanent extension of latest burial time at East Herringthorpe Cemetery had been successfully implemented, and recommendations were made that progress in respect of digitisation of burial records as well as information on land use be submitted in the next update in 12 months.
- **Economic Recovery** - The recommendation was made that a clear plan be developed to aid recently self-employed and others who were missed or inadvertently disadvantaged by the government's relief schemes to date. It was also recommended that an updated list of available schemes and grants be circulated to all Members. It was requested that a further briefing provide criteria and allocations for Council Discretionary Funds.
- **Energy Switching Scheme** - The recommendation was made that a plan be developed to minimise risk to the authority, including reputational risk, introduced by the chosen scheme.

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The Commission also noted a report on the exemplary work done in respect of the **Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeper Strategy**, to which no recommendations were made.

Sub and Project Group Work

In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in Improving Places Select Commission meetings, members are also currently carrying out work in project groups on:

- **Major Incident Plan (MIP)** - This sub-group held discussions in February 2020, and formally convened in October 2020, to monitor compliance with previous recommendations, in accordance with the Cabinet recommendation to review the Major Incident Plan every two years. Recommendations from this sub-group are forthcoming at the 10 December meeting of the Improving Places Select Commission.
- **Building Use** - Foundational discussions for the scope of this new sub-group were held on 24 September 2020, and 3 November 2020, in anticipation of reviewing the use of Council buildings in light of the pandemic.
- **Housing Repairs and Maintenance** - This one-off project group met on 27 August 2020, to discuss the delivery of housing services and repairs during the pandemic. The recommendation was made that the results of data analysis including GIS mapping be included in the next update in respect of Housing Repairs and Maintenance. A further recommendation was also made regarding call centre wait times and abandoned call rates which has since been undertaken by an OSMB sub-group on Call Centre communications.

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Scrutiny Minutes

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[7 May 2020](#)
[10 June 2020](#)
[15 July 2020](#)
[2 September 2020](#)
[16 September 2020](#)
[14 October 2020](#)

Health Select Commission

[4 June 2020](#)
[9 July 2020](#)
[3 September 2020](#)
[16 July - COVID-19 Workshop](#)
[20 October - JHOSC meeting](#)
[22 October 2020](#)

Improving Lives Select Commission

[16 June 2020](#)
[28 July 2020](#)
[22 September 2020](#)

Improving Places Select Commission

[9 June 2020](#)
[14 July 2020](#)
[8 September 2020](#)
[27 August 2020, Workshop: Housing Repairs and Maintenance](#)
[20 October 2020](#)