

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 15 January 2025

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update – January 2025

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Barbel Gale, Governance Manager
01709 807665 or barbel.gale@rotherham.gov.uk

Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor
01709 255601 or natasha.aucott@rotherham.gov.uk

Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Governance Advisor
01709 807267 kerry.grinsill-clinton@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, this report provides an update to Council of the activities and outcomes of Overview and Scrutiny activity at the Council.

It summarises the work carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) and the Select Commissions - Health (HSC), Improving Lives (ILSC) and Improving Places (IPSC).

Recommendations

That Council receive the report and note the updates.

List of Appendices Included

- Appendix 1 OSMB Work Programme
- Appendix 2 HSC Work Programme
- Appendix 3 ILSC Work Programme
- Appendix 4 IPSC Work Programme

Background Papers

Constitution of the Council, Appendix 9 – Responsibility for Functions, Section 5 –
Terms of Reference for Committees, Boards and Panels

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

None.

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update – January 2025

1. Background

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules require a regular update to Council on the activities of the Overview and Scrutiny function.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Annual report was presented to Council in September 2024 and provided an overview of the operation of the overview and scrutiny select commissions.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This report is intended as a summary of highlights and outcomes and is an indicative rather than definitive account of recent scrutiny work, which aims to hold the Council and key partners to account for decision-making, policy development, and performance. The report summarises information that is already in the public domain regarding progress, changes, or improvements resulting from recommendations and feedback provided by councillors on scrutiny committees. These include Health Select Commission, Improving Lives Select Commission, Improving Places Select Commission, and Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.
- 2.2 Although this report emphasises outcomes, it should be noted that scrutiny is chiefly a discursive process rather than a product. For further insight into the process of overview and scrutiny, the archive of public meetings webcasts, reports submitted for scrutiny, and minutes of discussions leading to recommendations are available on the Council's website.
- 2.3 The following principles were endorsed by OSMB at its meeting of 5 July 2023, as criteria to support the long/short listing of each of the commission's respective priorities:

Establish as a starting point:

- What are the key issues?
- What is the outcome that we want?

Agree principles for longlisting:

- Can scrutiny add value or influence?
- Is it being looked at elsewhere?
- Is it a priority – council or community?

Developing a consistent shortlisting criteria e.g.

- T** : Time: is it the right time, enough resources?
- O** : Others: is this duplicating the work of another body?
- P** : Performance: can scrutiny make a difference
- I** : Interest – what is the interest to the public?
- C** : Contribution to the Council plan

3. Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – Update on activity:

3.1 Pre-decision Scrutiny:

3.1.1 Since May 2024, 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:

- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy
- Finance Update
- Financial Outturn 2023-24
- Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update
- Dinnington Projects (Levelling Up Fund) Update Report
- July 2024-25 Financial Monitoring Report
- Boroughwide and Town Centre/Clifton Park Public Space Protection Orders
- Future Rothercare Model
- Looked After Children (LAC) Sufficiency Update (including the residential development progress update)
- Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy
- Temporary Accommodation Policy
- HRA Business Plan, Rent Setting and Service Charges 2025-26

3.2 Other Scrutiny work:

3.2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has also carried out other scrutiny work based on its Work Programme for 2024/25, which is attached as Appendix 1.

3.2.2 The Work Programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, as always, covers a diverse range of topics within its remit.

3.2.3 In the current municipal year, the Overview and Scrutiny Management board has scrutinised reports and made recommendations on:

- Referral from Council to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) - Petition "Rotherham's Commitment to a Permanent Ceasefire and To Promote Peace in Palestine and in the Region".
- Scrutiny Review - Preparation for Adulthood for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24
- Children's Commissioner's Takeover Challenge – Health and Wellbeing
- Annual Compliments and Complaints Report 2023-24
- The Safer Rotherham Partnership (SRP) Annual Report 2023-24
- Response from Cabinet 16 September 2024 to the Scrutiny Review Recommendations - Referral from Council to Overview and Scrutiny Management Board (OSMB) - Petition "Rotherham's Commitment to a Permanent Ceasefire and To Promote Peace in Palestine and in the Region"

3.3 Sub and Project Group work:

3.3.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board meetings, members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- **Planning Enforcement:** A meeting was held on 4 November 2024, with the Chair of OSMB, the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy, the Chair of Planning Board, and the Development Manager - South Team & Enforcement, where they discussed the strategy for planning enforcement, specifically the measurements for success and current statistics.

The Chair of OSMB was assured that the correct planning enforcement process was followed. The service provided statistics to the Planning Board on a six-monthly basis, it was agreed that the statistics would be provided to all elected members, to ensure an awareness and understanding of the planning enforcement process.

- **Agency Staff:** A briefing note has been provided and sent, on 20 December 2024, to members of OSMB to determine any additional aspects to be incorporated within the scope of the review. Members will then be contacted to progress this review forward.
- **Spotlight Review - Grass Cutting / Ground Maintenance:** A briefing note has been provided and sent, on 10 December 2024, to members of OSMB and Improving Places Select Commission to determine any additional aspects to be incorporated within the scope of the review. Members will then be contacted to progress this review forward.
- **OSMB - Spotlight review into life-saving equipment:** A request for members' expressions of interest to take part in this review has been sent and will be progressed as soon as possible.

4. **Health Select Commission – Update on activity:**

4.1 Scrutiny work:

4.1.1 Since May 2024, the Health Select Commission (HSC) has scrutinised the following reports and made recommendations in line with its Work Programme for 2024/25 which is attached at Appendix 2:

- South Yorkshire ICB (Integrated Care Board) Introduction and Overview
- TRFT (The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust) Introduction and Overview
- Oral Health Review Report
- LGA Adult Care Peer Review
- TRFT Annual Report

- Healthwatch Rotherham Introduction and Overview
- Place Partners Winter Planning Annual Update
- Public Health Peer Review

4.1.2 The Work Programme for the Health Select Commission, as always covers a diverse range of topics within its remit. It also draws on items referred to it for attention by the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC), where the Health Select Commission is represented by its Chair.

4.2 Sub and Project Group work:

4.2.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the Health Select Commission meetings, members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- **Work Programme Scrutiny Methodologies, Scoping, Scoring and Prioritisation:** A briefing paper was circulated to assist members in developing their thoughts in respect of the Commission's Work Programme, the options available for conducting scrutiny activities and to prioritise items for scrutiny.

A topic scoping, scoring and prioritisation meeting was subsequently held in November 2024, which identified two review priorities for the municipal year and determined the need to progress a member awareness workshop, for one topic.

- **Quality Accounts:** A briefing paper was circulated to ensure that members were fully informed about Quality Accounts, the Health Select Commission's role in responding to them and the associated time constraints.
- **Review – Access To Contraception:** Work is ongoing to prepare relevant background information and data, in conjunction with relevant services, health partners and the voluntary and community sector, to allow informed session planning. A request for members' expressions of interest to take part in this review has been sent and will be progressed as soon as possible. The potential for joint scrutiny with the Improving Lives Select Commission, is being explored.
- **Member Awareness Session/Workshop – Social Prescribing:** Work is ongoing to prepare relevant background information and data in conjunction with relevant services, health partners and the voluntary and community sector to allow informed session planning. The intention is that once developed the session will be opened to all Councillors.
- **Menopause Workshop:** Work will begin on this in the new year.

5. Improving Lives Select Commission – Update on activity:

5.1 Scrutiny work:

5.1.1 Since May 2024, the Improving Lives Select Commission (ILSC) has scrutinised the following reports and made recommendations in line with its Work Programme for 2024/25, which is attached at Appendix 3:

- An Introduction for the new commission on the key areas of Performance, Early Help, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and SEND Sufficiency.
- Children’s and Young People’s Performance Report 2023-2024.
- The outcomes of the Local Government Association’s Care Leavers Peer Review.
- The outcomes of the Ofsted Focused Visit.
- Scrutiny Review Recommendations Report on Preparation for Adulthood.
- The Rotherham Safeguarding Children’s Partnership Annual Report 2023-2024.
- The Rotherham Safeguarding Adult’s Board Annual Report 2023-2024.
- Absences from education, including elective home education, children missing education, education other than at school, persistent and severe absences, and exclusions.
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy Development update, including amendments following the consultation period.

5.2 Sub and Project Group work:

5.2.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the Improving Lives Select Commission meetings, members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- A spotlight review relating to preparation for adulthood for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. The associated Scrutiny Review Recommendations Report was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on 10 September 2024 and to Cabinet on 14 October 2024.
- A consultation workshop which was held with members of the Commission, to capture members’ feedback on the draft SEND Strategy, as part of the consultation phase of the strategy development.
- A briefing paper was circulated to members detailing the work the Commission has completed to date on elective home education, ahead of the next update at the December meeting, to assist members to identify any potential areas relating to elective home education, or absences from education that may require further focus, via a review or workshop.

- A workshop will be held in the new year for members to contribute to the consultation for the Elective Home Education Strategy's development.

6. Improving Places Select Commission – Update on activity:

6.1 Scrutiny work:

6.1.1 The Improving Places Select Commission (IPSC) has carried out the following scrutiny work based on its Work Programme for 2024/25, which is attached as Appendix 4.

6.1.2 In the current municipal year, the IPSC has scrutinised reports and made recommendations on:

- Housing Strategy 2022-25 Progress Report Year 2 (2023-24)
- Overview of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Housing
- Overview of the portfolio of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion & Neighbourhood Working
- Overview of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Transport, Jobs and the Local Economy
- Long Term Plan for Towns - Update
- Allotments Self-Management Update 2024
- Section 19 Report for Storm Babet
- Draft Housing Repairs and Maintenance Policy, November 2024

6.2 Sub and Project Group work:

6.2.1 In addition to the scrutiny activity carried out in the IPSC meetings, members are in the process of carrying out the following work:

- Spotlight Review - School Road Safety and Street Motion: Members availability is being sought to begin this review.
- Housing Strategy 2025-28 Workshop: Members availability is being sought to conduct this workshop.
- Housing Allocations Policy Workshop: Work will begin on this in the new year.

7. Options considered and recommended proposal

7.1 The report is submitted for information.

8. Consultation on proposal

8.1 The report is submitted for information.

9. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

9.1 The report is submitted for information.

10. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications

10.1 There are no financial or procurement implications directly arising from this report.

11. Legal Advice and Implications

11.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

12. Human Resources Advice and Implications

12.1 There are no Human Resource implications directly arising from this report.

13. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

13.1 There are no implications for Children, Young People, or Vulnerable Adults directly arising from this report.

14. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

14.1 There are no equalities or human rights implications directly arising from this report.

15. Implications for CO₂ Emissions and Climate Change

15.1 There are no climate or emissions implications directly arising from this report.

16. Implications for Partners

16.1 There are no implications for partners directly arising from this report.

17. Risks and Mitigation

17.1 There are no risks directly arising from this report.

Accountable Officer(s)

Emma Hill, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Approvals obtained on behalf of:

	Name	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp OBE	06/01/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Judith Badger	03/01/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	02/01/25
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive	17/12/24

Report Authors:

Barbel Gale, Governance Manager
01709 807665 or barbel.gale@rotherham.gov.uk

Natasha Aucott, Governance Advisor
01709 255601 or natasha.aucott@rotherham.gov.uk

Kerry Grinsill-Clinton, Governance Advisor
01709 807267 kerry.grinsill-clinton@rotherham.gov.uk

This report is published on the Council's [website](#).