

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Council – 09 April 2025

Report Title

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Update – April 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)

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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 position.

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 - April 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.
- 1.3 A further update was provided to Council in January 2025, outlining scrutiny activities in the municipal year to date at that time.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 This report is intended as a summary of highlights and outcomes since the January update 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 January 2025, 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:

- Council Plan and Year Ahead Delivery Plan Progress Update
- November 2024-25 Financial Monitoring Report
- Budget and Council Tax Report 2025-26
- Modern Slavery Transparency Statement - Annual Refresh
- Transport Capital Programme 2025-2026
- Licensing Act 2003 - Statement of Licensing Policy

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 Since January 2025, the Overview and Scrutiny Management board has scrutinised reports and made recommendations on:

- Call-in – Cabinet 16/12/2024 – Item 10 - Waste Collections Policy
- Medium Term Financial Strategy Update
- Home to School Transport Budget pressures / mitigations Update
- Waste Collections Policy - Update
- Call-in - Cabinet 10 February 2025 - Item 12 - Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy

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, since January 2025 members have either carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- Spotlight Review - Grass Cutting / Ground Maintenance: Members have come forward to be part of the review. The Governance Manager is to schedule the initial meeting.

- OSMB - Spotlight review into life-saving equipment: Members have now come forward to take part in this review. The Governance Manager is to schedule the initial meeting.

4. Health Select Commission – Update on activity:

4.1 Scrutiny work:

4.1.1 Since January 2025, 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:

- Sleep Pathways
- Adult Social Care Commissioning Update
- Adult Contact Team Referral Process
- The NHS 18-Week Waiting Time Challenge

At the time of writing, the Health Select Commission is imminently due to scrutinise the following:

- Adult Mental Health Pathway

4.1.2 The Work Programme for the Health Select Commission 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, since January 2025 members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on:

- The Access to Contraception Review

This work has included site visits and evidence gathering drawing on the following sources:

- MESMAC
- GP Services
- RMBC's Public Health Team
- SY ICB
- Early Help
- Youth groups
- TRFT

The resulting report and recommendations are due to be presented to the full Commission at its 1 May 2025 meeting.

- The Access to NHS Dentistry Review
This review has been fully scoped, members of the Working Group have been identified and those members have received relevant background information and papers to assist them in conducting the review and achieving its objectives. Further work will move forward following the conclusion of the Access to Contraception Review.

4.3 Other Activities

4.3.1 In addition to the public scrutiny and sub and project group work outlined at 4.1 and 4.2 above, the following has taken place, or is in the process of being undertaken:

- Members attended the Prevention Matters Session and received a bespoke follow-up briefing to assist with development of the 2025/26 municipal year work programme, giving due regard to the contents of the Prevention Matters Session in conjunction with the Director of Public Health's Annual Report.
- Members attended the Committee Chairing Skills Member Session, to create a wider pool of individuals with the knowledge and skills to lead either the Commission itself or agreed reviews and sub/project group work.
- Members received a briefing regarding Open Arms headline data, activities and future plans, following a request for further information arising from the November 2024 'Place Partners Winter Planning' agenda item.
- Members are scheduled to attend the Rotherham JSNA/Data Hub Session to further support the development of the 2025/26 Health Select Commission Work Programme aligned to the Council's Strategic Objectives as they relate to the Commission's remit.
- Members are Scheduled to receive an in-person briefing relating the relocation of the Lung Clinic to Rotherham Hospital delivered by the South Yorkshire Cancer Alliance.

5. **Improving Lives Select Commission – Update on activity:**

5.1 Scrutiny work:

5.1.1 Since January 2025, 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:

- Special Educational Need and Disabilities (SEND) Ofsted Inspection Outcomes
- The Family Help Proposal

- The Rotherham Safeguarding Children's Partnership Update, following the changes presented to Cabinet in November
- The Rotherham Kinship Care Offer
- A Youth Justice Service Update.

At the time of writing, the Improving Lives Select Commission is imminently due to scrutinise the following:

- The Domestic Abuse Strategy Update and Progress.

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, since January 2025 members either have carried out or are in the process of carrying out work on the following:

- An additional consultation engagement session was held with members of the Commission with the Access to Education Team on the 28th February 2025. The Team worked with members to capture their feedback into the revision of the Elective Home Education Policy Review. The revised policy will be presented back to the Commission once it is drafted.
- An additional workshop has been arranged on the 1 May 2025, for the Commission to scrutinise two updates on the following items:
 - Prevent Update
 - Keeping Children Safe in Education.
- Work has begun to scope a review on “Trauma and Children Missing Education”, which was proposed by a member of the Commission. A session has been arranged in April for members to further scope the detail of the proposed review.

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 Since January 2025, the IPSC has scrutinised reports and made recommendations on:

- Bereavement Services Annual Report
- Flooding Alleviation Update
- Thriving Neighbourhoods Annual Report 2023/2024

- Overview of the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Finance & Safe and Clean Communities
- Rotherham Gateway (Mainline and Tram Train) Station
- Tenant Scrutiny report: How Rotherham Council supports new tenants
- Climate Emergency Annual Report 2025

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:
- Consideration of the 2025-28 Housing Strategy – Members considered this at a workshop on 12 December.
 - Spotlight Review - School Road Safety and Street Motion: The initial scoping meeting for this view has taken place and additional information is being sought as a result before the next meeting is scheduled.

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	01/04/25
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Rob Mahon	26/03/25
Assistant Director of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Phillip Horsfield	27/03/25
Assistant Director of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	
Head of Human Resources (if appropriate)	N/A	
The Strategic Director with responsibility for this report	Jo Brown, Assistant Chief Executive	20/3/25
Consultation undertaken with the relevant Cabinet Member	N/A	

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