

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25 - SHORTLIST

A Member work planning workshop was held on 11th June 2024 at which the following list of suggested topics was shortlisted for inclusion in the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2024/25.

The Committee is now asked to score the topics, in order to prioritise its work for the coming year.

	Topic	Comments following the workshop	Score
(1)	Member Training	Accept – Find out what training is available and whether it should be mandatory.	
(2)	Results of the Staff Survey	Accept – Look at the results and any action plan.	
(3)	Pendle Community Safety Partnership (CSP) – ...find out more about the work of the Pennine CSP... ...single district CSPs may not be sustainable, even in the short term.	Accept – This is carried forward from 2023/24 as the Committee hasn't yet completed its work on this topic.	
(4)	Corporate Plan 2023-27 – to consider the actions in the Corporate Plan for 24/25 and choose key area/s for scrutiny.	Accept - it is recommended that, when setting the work programme, the Committee looks at the Corporate Plan for potential items.	
(5)	Bulky Household Waste Collection – The Council currently provides a free unlimited service for the collection of domestic bulky household items. ...The service is unsustainable...	Accept – the issue is related to the Council's priorities (Priority 1) Currently the service is unsustainable and is a matter of concern.	
(6)	Replacement Waste Containers - The Council currently provides a free replacement wheeled bin on receipt of a request. ...The service is unsustainable...	Accept – As with suggestion (6) the issue is related to the Council's priorities (Priority 1). Currently the service is unsustainable and is a matter of concern.	

(7)	Mechanical Street Cleansing (Compact Sweepers) - The compact mechanical street cleansing service...currently works on a schedule which follows refuse and recycling collections. ...some areas of the Borough have a greater need for resources to be deployed within them to support the improvement of our local environment.	Accept – the issue is related to the Council's priorities (Priorities 1 and 2). The service may not be as effective and efficient as it could be and may not be delivering value for money.	
(8)	Empty Homes in Pendle – ...to develop a proper strategy for dealing with empty homes in the Borough. ...Empty homes cause the decline of neighbourhoods and lead to more empty homes. They attract ASB and crime.	Accept – Ask the Head of Housing and Environmental Health to submit a report and attend a meeting of the Committee.	
(9)	Fixed Penalty Notices for Dog Fouling and Littering - Since the end of the District Enforcement contract, the number of Fixed Penalty Notices for littering and dog fouling has fallen of a cliff...word has got round that it is virtually impossible to be fined for dog fouling or littering in Pendle and the result is people have become emboldened and there is consequently more of it. We need a solution to this...	Potential for future review	

Suggested topics which could be referred elsewhere –

	Topic	Comments following the workshop
(10)	Primary Care ... to look at the issues surrounding primary care (particularly GP services and pharmacy provision) and identify opportunities to improve the situation.	Reject as a topic for Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Can't add value at a local level. Suggest that LCC's Health Scrutiny Committee be asked to look at it at a regional level. The Council's representative on LCC's Health Scrutiny Committee (Cllr Chris Church) could take this forward and report back.

(11)	<p>Abandoned Vehicles – ...We should be using all the diverse powers at our disposal and liaising with other partners to have these vehicles, which blight neighbourhoods, removed. ...These vehicles are an eye sore and blight neighbourhoods. They take up parking spaces that residents could use.</p>	<p>Reject as a topic for this Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Suggest that this be referred to the Pendle Community Safety Partnership to take a unified approach.</p>
(12)	<p>Strategy for Green Space Maintenance and Management – ... Pendle is failing to care for its myriad green spaces properly and needs to have a real strategy for care for these land pockets. This will help our communities and our environment. Degraded green spaces have a negative impact on an area.</p>	<p>Reject as a topic for Overview and Scrutiny. Could refer to area committees for consideration.</p>
(13)	<p>Adopt-a-Street for Pendle - ...other places have embraced clean streets schemes (here is one: https://www.volunteernow.co.uk/adopt-a-street/) where the residents work in partnership with the Council. ...engage communities to work with us to remove litter and to diminish littering in the first place. ...Such a scheme would emphasise the partnership between residents and the Council and reset that relationship.</p>	<p>Reject as a topic for Overview and Scrutiny. Could refer to area committees for consideration.</p>
(14)	<p>A Focus on Pendle's Heritage – ...Pendle Council does not have a Conservation Officer, not even a part-time one. ...Consulting Growth Lancashire about some, but not all, heritage applications is simply not working and does not lead to a proactive pan Pendle strategy for Pendle's Heritage.</p>	<p>Reject – Members acknowledge the importance of preserving Pendle's heritage and agree with the principle but feel a scrutiny review could not make a difference. It is not something for the work programme but could be referred to the relevant Executive Member.</p>
(15)	<p>Walking to School in Pendle ...Some schools in Pendle have partial schemes, or seasonal schemes, but we need a pan Pendle approach and then we can calculate the carbon savings too.</p>	<p>Reject – A scrutiny review could not make a difference. Suggest refer to LCC.</p>

<p>(16)</p>	<p>Review of all the Fixed Assets owned by the Council – ... A full Fixed Asset review with a harsh view on “why do we own/keep this?” leading to sales of surplus assets could generate millions of pounds in cash.</p> <p>...Improve the appearance of the Borough and reduce blighted land/properties in our towns and rural environments.</p>	<p>Reject as a topic for Overview and Scrutiny. This will be dealt with by the Asset Management Working Group.</p>
--------------------	---	---