

**ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Council Offices,  
Urban Road,  
Kirkby in Ashfield  
Nottingham  
NG17 8DA

## **Agenda**

# **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **Thursday, 16th December, 2021**

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Time: **7.00 pm**

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Venue: **Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road,  
Kirkby-in-Ashfield**

For any further information please contact:

**Lynn Cain**

[lynn.cain@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:lynn.cain@ashfield.gov.uk)

01623 457317

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# Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Membership

**Chairman:** Councillor Andrew Harding

**Vice-Chairman:** Councillor Dale Grounds

**Councillors:**

Chris Baron

Will Bostock

Lee Waters

Jim Blagden

David Walters

## FILMING/AUDIO RECORDING NOTICE

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## SUMMONS

You are hereby requested to attend a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held at the time/place and on the date mentioned above for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.



**Theresa Hodgkinson**  
**Chief Executive**

## **AGENDA**

**Page**

1. To receive apologies for absence, if any.
2. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and/or Non-Registrable Interests.**
3. To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 June 2021. 5 - 10
4. **Work Programme Topics.** 11 - 26

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Urban Road, Kirkby-in-Ashfield,  
on Thursday, 17th June, 2021 at 7.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor Andrew Harding in the Chair;

Councillors Chris Baron, Jim Blagden,  
Will Bostock, Dale Grounds, David Walters and  
Lee Waters.

**Officers Present:** Lynn Cain, Mike Joy and Shane Wright.

### **OS.1 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Personal Interests and/or Non Registrable Interests**

No declarations of interest were made.

### **OS.2 Minutes**

RESOLVED

that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 11 February 2021,  
be received and approved as a correct record.

### **OS.3 Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/2022**

The Service Manager, Scrutiny and Democratic Services welcomed everyone to the first Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting of the new municipal year and reminded Members that the Council's Scrutiny Workplan, as submitted, was revised and refreshed annually with new topics for review as required.

The report also provided Members with an overview of ongoing review topics and enabled them to submit suggestions for new topics which could originate from a variety of sources including global and national issues, local ward difficulties or particular requests from local residents.

The Workplan was predominantly Scrutiny Member led but the Council's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and Cabinet Members would also, on occasion, submit topics for discussion and possible inclusion on the Workplan should issues become apparent and require further examination.

Members were also requested to give some thought to their review suggestions as topics that encompassed too wide a remit would often leave limited room for Cabinet to accept the recommendations and effect real change. It was imperative that the time spent on reviews was worthwhile to

ensure any recommendations considered by Cabinet were robust and could provide real value, benefit and progression to the Council, the District and its residents.

## **Ongoing Topics**

### **Play Park Inclusivity**

The review in relation to play park inclusivity had commenced at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in March 2021 but as a result of officers having to juggle differing priorities due to Covid-19, it had been agreed that the review would be held in abeyance and resurrected as soon as practicable.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Dale Grounds, advised Members that progress in relation to the review had been moving forward and he was presently working with officers regarding the provision of additional, fully accessible, play equipment at the Council's play parks. It was suggested that the Council's Service Manager for Place and Wellbeing, Sarah Daniel and the Council's Place and Projects Officer, Will Kent, be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to present an update in relation to this topic.

### **Veterans and Service Personnel**

The Scrutiny Research Officer advised Members that following 3 productive meetings, the Committee were now due to present their recommendations for this review to the Cabinet on 19 July 2021. The review had been extremely worthwhile with assistance from Mark Leek, a public representative for the Armed Forces and Gillian Welch, the Council's Senior Community Engagement Officer, who had worked tirelessly to enable the Council to achieve the MoD Bronze and Silver Employer Recognition Award through the Defence Employee Recognition Scheme.

The review had been extremely positive which had resulted in a strong set of recommendations being ready for presentation to Cabinet in July.

### **Tenancy Support**

Scrutiny Panel A had already held a scoping meeting which had been attended by the Council's Service Manager, Housing Management & Tenancy Service, Nicky Moss and the Service Manager, Strategic Housing & Lettings, Phil Warrington who informed Members on a variety of tenancy support provisions including the Money Management Team, Tenancy Sustainment, prevention of eviction and homelessness.

At the meeting it had become evident that there were potentially some wider support issues that would be coming to the fore for the Council once the temporary ban on housing evictions was lifted in September 2021. It was anticipated that this could result in many tenants becoming homeless and looking to the Council for additional support with rehousing and accessing benefits etc.

A further informal Working Group meeting had been held in March 2021 to consider the matter further and the review was now due to recommence at the next Scrutiny Panel A meeting on 15 July 2021, with continued involvement from key Council Offices and external partners.

Members took the opportunity to discuss the current position with regard to tenancy support as follows:

- concerns surrounding growing rent arrears at the Council
- acknowledgement that many tenants facing eviction were struggling with long term financial difficulties which had been exacerbated by the pandemic
- the increase in use of payday loans and their contribution to deepening financial difficulties for tenants
- the extensive debt management services being offered by the Council to assist tenants
- concerns surrounding an increase in redundancies following cessation of the national furlough scheme and its impact on Council services
- acknowledgement that many private landlords were now struggling due to unpaid rent and an inability to evict non-compliant tenants and a suggestion that the Council could potentially offer some support to private landlords too
- the exemplary work of the Council's Housing Teams throughout the pandemic
- a suggestion to mailshot Ashfield tenants to raise awareness of the Council's services and support for debt management issues.

#### Climate Change

This topic had initially been suggested for review during the last municipal year and notwithstanding extensive discussions with Members, it was proving a difficult task to narrow down the remit for the review from such a wide-reaching, global topic.

A further review had been included on the Scrutiny Workplan in relation to 'Waste and Recycling' and it had been mooted that this topic could form part of the 'Climate Change' review. However, having considered the remit of each topic in more depth, Committee were advised that both topics would be better as stand-alone items due to their complexity and recent developments in both areas.

#### Crime and Disorder

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with current legislation, were required to hold a 'Crime and Disorder scrutiny meeting annually to consider pertinent issues affecting the District. Due to the pandemic this meeting had not been held in 2020 but would be resurrected for the next municipal year.

The meeting would be a one-off desktop exercise to enable the Council to consider any priority crime and disorder issues and Members were asked to consider potential areas for discussion in anticipation of the meeting being held in October/November 2021.

## **New Topic Suggestions**

### **£62.6 million Towns Fund Award**

A suggestion was made that a scrutiny review could be undertaken to ensure that every opportunity is made available to local businesses (of all sizes) to tender for contracts and play a part in the development of Kirkby and Sutton following Ashfield securing £62.6 million as part of the Government's Towns Fund award. This would also facilitate the engagement of many local workers through the creation of job opportunities, thus enabling the Ashfield economy to continue to grow and thrive post pandemic.

### **Litter Enforcement via Outside Contractor**

Members had recently been informed that following commencement of the 12 month pilot scheme with a private contractor to provide additional support for environmental crime enforcement regarding littering and dog fouling offences, £75,000 worth of fines had been collected in the first month and over 100 fly tipping offences had been identified. It was suggested that Members could benefit from learning more about the pilot scheme and their methods of enforcement and issues of fines.

To enable Members to further consider both potential topics for inclusion on the Workplan, it was suggested that appropriate officers be invited to the next meeting of the Committee to furnish Members with additional information to enable informed decisions to be made.

## **Previously Suggested Topics**

### **Buying Local**

The topic of 'Buying Local' was put forward for potential inclusion on the scrutiny work programme following a motion submitted to Council in February 2021 that was debated and duly endorsed regarding the Council's commitment to buying from and utilising local services post Brexit.

The Chairman of the Covid-19 Recovery Scrutiny Panel who was also a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee suggested that this item would be better reviewed by the Panel as their remit was predominantly the recovery of local businesses and reinvigorating the local economy following the pandemic.

### **Roadside Memorials**

The topic of 'Roadside Memorials' was put forward for potential inclusion on the scrutiny work programme following an incident in Kirkby regarding a group of motorcyclists paying tribute to a friend/relative that had died on Diamond Avenue. The event had caused problems on the highway and the Police were eventually called in to intervene.

Due to the popularity of roadside memorials increasing over the last few years, growing numbers of councils were attempting to define their responses to the tributes by developing comprehensive written policies.



The Service Manager, Scrutiny and Democratic Services advised Members that the Council's Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) had welcomed the potential inclusion of this topic on the Scrutiny Workplan and had wished to see the remit widened to consider protocols for cemetery kerb sets alongside roadside memorials.

Member briefly debated the issue and expressed their deep concerns at reviewing such emotive and sensitive topics. It was also reiterated that there were already enforcement powers in existence to deal with highways issues as a result of attendance at roadside memorials and these should be dealt with by the Police and responsible authorities as required.

RESOLVED that

- a) the update regarding ongoing review topics from the 2020/2021 scrutiny work programme, be received and noted;
- b) to enable further consideration of potential 2021/22 Scrutiny Workplan topics, the Scrutiny Research Officer be requested to undertake the following:
  - to invite the Council's Community Safety Manager to a future meeting of the Committee, to advise Members on progress in relation to the Litter and Dog Fouling Enforcement Pilot Scheme currently being undertaken by an external contractor;
- c) the 'Buying Local' topic be added to the 2021/22 Scrutiny Workplan and assigned to the Covid-19 Recovery Scrutiny Panel for review;
- d) it be reaffirmed that the 'Waste and Recycling' topic and the 'Climate Change' topic be facilitated as two separate Workplan reviews;
- e) having been considered for possible inclusion on the 2021/22 Scrutiny Workplan, the Roadside Memorials topic be duly declined.

The meeting closed at 8.18 pm

Chairman.

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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 DECEMBER 2021</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>WORK PROGRAMME TOPICS</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>NOT APPLICABLE</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to present Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with suggestions for new topics for consideration to be added to the scrutiny work programme.

## **Recommendation(s)**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members are recommended to:

- a. Note and discuss the topics currently on the scrutiny work programme.
- b. Consider the topics detailed within this report for inclusion on the scrutiny work programme.
- c. Consider any additional topics for inclusion on the scrutiny work programme.

## **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

Ensuring that the scrutiny work programme is regularly monitored as a standing item and refreshed is a key responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in the Council's Constitution.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

Members could choose not to monitor or update the scrutiny work programme; however, this would be in conflict with the Overview and Scrutiny Rules of Procedure set out within the Council's Constitution.

## Detailed Information

### CURRENT SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

Please see the Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/2022 attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

### TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### Gambling

##### December 2021 Council Meeting

At the December 2021 meeting of Council, Members approved a revised Statement of Gambling Policy effective from 31 January 2022. During the debate on this item, various Members voiced growing concerns on the serious impacts of gambling on local communities and individuals, with a desire for the Council to identify what it can do to lessen these issues.

##### LGA Councillor Handbook: Gambling Regulation

In July 2021, the LGA published a councillor handbook designed to assist councillors in understanding gambling regulations and the role local authorities have in managing those regulations.

Within the handbook there is a section on “Protecting Vulnerable People”. This section states that protecting children and vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling is one of the three licensing objectives. Ensuring that this objective is upheld is one of the core responsibilities licensing authorities must meet.

The full LGA handbook on gambling regulation can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/gambling-regulation-councillor-handbook-england-and-wales-0>.

##### Centre for Governance and Scrutiny

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS) is working on a project with the Gambling Commission to raise awareness and increase the involvement of elected members in overview and scrutiny roles in tackling gambling related harms. As part of the project, the CfGS have released a document detailing how local authorities are using scrutiny to tackle gambling harms.

As set out in the introduction to *Local Authorities Using Scrutiny to Tackle Gambling Harms*:

*“The COVID-19 pandemic significantly altered the gambling landscape by shifting activity online due to restrictions on people’s movements, the cancellation of major sporting events, and the closure of commercial venues. The most recent Gambling Commission statistics demonstrates a 7.7% decrease in licensed betting premises between March and November 2020, and this is a continuing trend.*

*Many experts are now examining the impact of the pandemic upon gambling behaviours, alongside increased availability and accessibility of gambling products, the use of multiple products, the time spent gambling, and the alarming, elevated risk of harms.*

*Gambling harms are an issue for every local authority in the UK, both from the perspective of the authority’s wellbeing and community leadership role, and their regulatory responsibilities. The*

*growing issue of gambling harms can also be considered within the wider commitment to reducing health inequalities and an equitable post-covid recovery.*

*Whilst many councils have discussed gambling harm within licensing committees, in the context of reviewed and updating the gambling policy statement, through our research we have found that tackling gambling harms is underexplored in local authorities. As with other public health issues, arguably there should be consideration of gambling harms at the highest level to ensure appropriate political and strategic priority.”<sup>1</sup>*

The CfGS publication goes on to provide recent examples of councils tackling gambling harms through scrutiny committees – using the function to understand, evaluate, and improve efforts that prevent and treat gambling harms in the community.

Common themes have been identified:

- Mapping areas of risk and vulnerable populations
- Bringing together local partners
- Involving stakeholders and victims
- Seeking to understand individual, social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors that influence a person’s experience of gambling harm
- Understanding gambling harms as a public health issue and advocating for a whole system approach to address this
- Recommending a coordinated action plan to prevent and reduce gambling harms
- Lobbying government through correspondence with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media, and Sports to take action on gambling harms

### Case Study Examples

#### **Devon County Council**

Councillors in Devon expressed concern about the impacts of gambling in their communities and were keen to explore the wider societal and economic effects. Scrutiny asked for Public Health to report on the issue – the report outlined that Devon’s seasonal tourism; high house prices and low wages has caused pockets of deprivation. This deprivation puts communities at risk to gambling related harms, the impacts of which are highly likely to influence spend on services for vulnerable people.

In 2018, Devon County Council undertook a scrutiny spotlight review of gambling-related harms, the scope of this spotlight review was:

- To understand the underlying causes of problem gambling and the challenges associated with problem gambling
- To explore the ways in which the Council and partners could work together to prevent people who are at risk of problem gambling reaching crisis point
- To identify the ways in which the Council and partners could work together to support people who have gambling addictions

The review carried out by Devon County Council reflected the importance of the issue from a public health and partnership perspective, as well as the importance of Councillors having a community leadership role.

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<sup>1</sup> Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, *Local authorities using scrutiny to tackle gambling harms*, June 2021.

Key questions of the review focused on prevention, understanding when gambling becomes a problem, and identifying support available when someone is struggling with problem gambling. Brining together different stakeholders and partners to collectively problem solve, the parties involved included other local authorities, the Police, gambling charities, and a company supplying gambling equipment.

The review was interested in whether there were specific characteristics and risk factors that led people to become problem gamblers. One concern was the link between gambling and suicide. The review was also concerned about the increasing trajectory of remote gambling.

The findings of the review were particularly focused around the need for reliable and accurate data. Several of the partners involved in the review committed to working together to better understand the scale of the problem as well as to support services that exist to help people with gambling addiction.

### **Bradford Metropolitan District Council**

In 2019, Bradford's Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee members received a report that detailed how gambling businesses were mainly situated in some of the most deprived areas of the Bradford District.

Bradford has high prevalence of population groups particularly vulnerable to gambling related harm. Evidence indicates that particular groups are more vulnerable to gambling related harm than others – young people are one of these groups, and Bradford has the highest percentage of under 18s for a city authority in the country. People living in areas of greater deprivation is another vulnerable group, Bradford is ranked the 11<sup>th</sup> most income deprived local authority in England.

Bradford's Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee was asked to consider the prevalence of gambling and gambling related harm within the district and the development of the Council's approach to problem gambling.

Over several meetings, many different perspectives were sought to inform the committee. A representative from an organisation which campaigns to highlight the dangers of problem gambling – "Gambling with Lives" was present at the meeting to talk about the work of the organisation and how he had lost his own son through problem gambling. The committee also invited a representative of the gambling operator William Hill and a recovering gambling addict.

Members highlighted that a broader debate needed to be had with the industry on the issue of problem gambling. Following these scrutiny meetings, councillors were in agreement that more effective controls needed to be in place to tackle the issue of problem gambling in Bradford.

The full *Local Authorities Using Scrutiny to Tackle Gambling Harms* publication, with more case study examples, can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.cfgs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Scrutiny-and-gambling-harms-case-studies.pdf>.

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members are asked to consider approving the topic of Gambling for inclusion on the scrutiny work programme.**

### **Social Housing White Paper**

26 January 2021 Cabinet Report

A report was presented to Cabinet in January 2021 to provide a summary of the key implications for Ashfield District Council arising from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Social Housing White Paper.

The Social Housing White Paper was published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities, and Local Government (MHCLG) on 17 November 2020. It is the follow up to the Social Housing Green Paper published in August 2018, both of which are part of the Government’s response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the Hackitt Review of building safety and fire safety.

The White Paper sets out 7 core commitments that social housing residents should be able to expect from their landlord:

1. To be safe in your home.
2. To know how your landlord is performing.
3. To have complaints dealt with promptly and fairly.
4. To be treated with respect – backed by improved consumer standards and regulations.
5. To have your voice heard by your landlord.
6. To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live in.
7. To be supported to take your first step to home ownership.

The publication of the White Paper was long awaited, with a number of the measures having been fed out to the sector for months leading up to the publication.

Within this January 2021 report, key implications of the Social Housing White Paper were set out, detailing the implications for Ashfield District Council.

<b>Safety</b>	Social landlords will be legally required to identify a nominated senior person responsible for complying with statutory health and safety requirements. This person should be visible and accessible to tenants. They will have specific responsibility for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Driving a strong culture for prioritising and delivering health and safety requirements</li> <li>- Ensuring robust health and safety systems are in place</li> <li>- Providing assurance that health and safety risks are being managed effectively</li> </ul>
	Note: the draft Building Safety Bill also includes the requirement for an Accountable Person for higher-risk building safety and fire safety.
	Safety will be added to the Regulator’s Consumer Standard
	Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms will be mandatory in social housing – this is being consulted on currently
	Electrical safety standards in social housing will be consulted on to bring the sector in line with private rented sector standards
<b>Implications for ADC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of a Senior Officer is required to sign off on the Council’s compliance with all applicable health and safety</li> </ul>

	<p>legislation within social housing, i.e. fire, legionella, electrical, gas, asbestos and lift safety. The Officer must provide appropriate levels of assurance to the Regulator as well as being accountable (and directly accessible) to tenants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular consultation and engagement with tenants on all health and safety matters will be required</li> <li>• A significant review is required of the current approach to assessing, reporting, and scrutinising health and safety risks within the Council's social housing stock to ensure transparency and an audit trail; including how such risks are overseen by Elected Members.</li> <li>• The cost implication of compliance with the new carbon monoxide requirement is estimated to be £476,000 for initial installation. The detectors may then need to be replaced on a 10-year cycle.</li> </ul>
<b>Landlord performance</b>	Social landlords will be required to identify a nominated senior person responsible for complying with the Regulator's Consumer Standards
	The regulator will introduce a national set of tenant satisfaction measures – social landlords will be required to regularly publish these using technology
	Social landlords will be required to publish a breakdown of the how their income is being spent, including management costs and executive remuneration
<b>Implications for ADC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the breadth of issues covered by the Regulatory Standards the Director of Housing and Assets would be the nominated 'responsible officer'. The standards will not only require compliance with all facets of the housing function but will also require that robust assurance is provided on performance data, anti-social behaviour (ASB), customer service and health &amp; safety.</li> <li>• The requirement to regularly collect, scrutinise and publish a new set of prescribed performance indicators and tenant satisfaction measures will require modification to current performance monitoring practices, along with the development of an appropriate technology solution for 'real time' reporting and publication of data and performance.</li> <li>• It is anticipated that a national market research organisation such as Ipsos Mori may be involved in auditing and/or collating tenant satisfaction scores (this will involve additional cost).</li> <li>• The requirement to regularly publish a detailed breakdown of management costs (and associated salaries).</li> </ul>
<b>Complaint handling</b>	The 'democratic filter' will be removed by the Building Safety Bill, meaning that residents no longer have to wait 8 weeks or go to a designated person to access the Housing Ombudsman
	A new Complaint Handling Code has already been published, with a deadline of 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020 for social landlords to complete and publish a compliance self-assessment.
	Social landlords must widely publish their complaints policy
	To ensure complaints are resolved as quickly as possible, the Housing Ombudsman will have new powers to take action where



	landlords are acting unreasonably slowly, as well as increased resources to provide mediation and support to landlords
	From March 2021, the Housing Ombudsman will publish details of the individual cases it has determined, as well data on individual landlord's complaints volumes, categories, and outcomes.
	The Housing Ombudsman will report cases of non-compliance with any of their orders to the Regulator
	MHCLG will run an awareness campaign for social housing residents on their rights to redress and routes to complain
	The Housing Ombudsman will engage directly with social housing residents through regular virtual events and a new Resident Panel
<b>Implications for ADC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to comply with the new Housing Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code would result in investigation and enforcement by the Housing Ombudsman and a referral to the Regulator who may do the same.</li> <li>• The Council must be in a position to accept and identify complaints made via social media channels.</li> <li>• The requirement to report annually to tenants remains mandatory and additional information must now be included in this. An annual report to Cabinet is also mandated for Councils</li> <li>• The new definition of complaints may lead to increased number of complaints, which the Council needs to be prepared for.</li> </ul>
<b>Consumer regulation</b>	A system of routine inspections will be introduced by the Regulator – all social landlords with over 1,000 homes will be inspected at least every 4 years
	The Regulator will also conduct specific, reactive investigations and inspection where a potential compliance breach is identified
	Findings from inspection, investigations and details of enforcement action taken will be published.
	An annual desktop review of a range of information sources is expected
	Local authorities will be required to self-refer breaches of consumer standards to the Regulator.
	The Regulator will seek assurance that Councillors have sufficient oversight of regulatory compliance
	The Regulator will have new powers, including unlimited fines and the ability to issue Performance Improvement Plans
	A new consumer regulation function within the Regulator will be created to deliver the new proactive consumer regulatory regime
<b>Implications for ADC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compliance with the Regulatory Standards will require more than just delivery of a good service – the service must be able to evidence and ensure its compliance; which will amount to a significant increase in reporting and evidence gathering, along with the recording and testing of both internal and external measures of control and assurance.</li> <li>• Significant preparation for inspections will be required, which will be detailed and time consuming and could be at short notice – as such a short notice inspection plan will be required together with a system to ensure the body of evidence can be compiled.</li> <li>• An annual programme of compliance will need to be established to comply with the annual desktop review</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A system to identify potential and actual breaches in a timely manner is required, and a process established to report these to the Regulator.</li> <li>• Compliance monitoring and scrutiny will need to be built into the Cabinet/Council meeting timetable</li> <li>• A 'compliance' officer may be required within the section to ensure all requirements are met, recorded, filed, and compiled.</li> </ul>
<b>Tenant voice</b>	Social landlords will have to demonstrate to the Regulator how they have sought out and considered ways to improve tenant engagement
	Ministers will continue to listen to residents directly
	MHCLG will deliver an opportunities and empowerment programme, providing a range of learning and support activities to provide residents with tools to better influence and hold landlords to account
	MHCLG will review the professional qualifications and standards required for social housing staff in different roles, including senior staff. The review will include customer service, mental health support, courtesy, respect, empathy, and professional competence.
<b>Implications for ADC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will need to be a significant increase in the Council's tenant engagement activity, which will require an appropriate level of funding.</li> <li>• All staff that interact with social housing tenants will need to achieve the appropriate level of professional competence and/or qualification, which may be nationally prescribed. This should include matters of health and safety, customer service and mental health. Councillors may also require training on these matters to fulfil their obligations with the Regulator.</li> <li>• There will be cost implications to ensuring staff are trained and qualified</li> </ul>
<b>Quality home and neighbourhood</b>	MHCLG will review the Decent Homes Standard to consider how it can better support decarbonisation and energy efficiency, neighbourhood and home safety, and improved communal and green spaces. The first part of the review will be completed by Autumn 2021.
	MHCLG will clarify the roles of agencies involved in tackling ASB
	The new national tenant satisfaction measures will include measures on responsible neighbourhood management, including tackling ASB
	MHCLG will soon publish the findings of a review of local authority allocation schemes
	The regulatory standards will be updated to require social landlords have a policy setting out how they will tackle domestic abuse
<b>Implications for ADC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council will need to consider the cost of achieving EPC level 'C' by 2030 and net zero by 2050 (£10m has been set aside to achieve EPC 'C')</li> <li>• A detailed review of the Council's services relating to estates, neighbourhoods, ASB, domestic abuse and lettings will be required – this may result in a change in the division of duties, priorities, performance measures and funding between departments</li> </ul>

<b>Home ownership</b>	This chapter reiterates previous Government announcements around affordable home ownership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The introduction of a new shared ownership model</li> <li>- A commitment that 50% of new homes funded by Homes England will be for affordable home ownership</li> <li>- The introduction of a new Right to Shared Ownership</li> </ul>
	MHCLG is committed to ensuring new social housing is well-designed and beautiful and have amended the NPPF and created a National Design Guide to reflect this
	Further leaseholder reforms will be announced, including service charge transparency and major works consultation
<b>Implications for ADC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council may be required to include shared ownership properties on Homes England funded development schemes (this will require new cash flow/valuation formulas, recording and legal processes). Details will be known when 2021 Affordable Housing Program launched.</li> </ul>

### 7 December 2021 Cabinet Report

At the 7 December 2021 meeting of Cabinet, a report was presented providing an update of actions undertaken as a result of the Social Housing White Paper.

Within the 7 December 2021 report to Cabinet titled *Social Housing White Paper*, next steps have been set out in response to the White Paper. These are:

- Concentrated work with Council wide departments to embed understanding and identify robust indicators for early warning and evidence
- Develop a clear report that will be submitted bi-annually to Cabinet that identifies focused recommendations where required, including associated risk of achieving target and compliance
- Continue to work alongside Learning & Development for continuous learning for staff and councillors on key areas identified by gap analysis
- Tenant satisfaction measures need to be put in place
- Capita Housing system is being updated in order to satisfy the collection of data
- Consumer Lead to undertake horizon scanning for regulatory changes and share information in a timely manner with relevant departments
- Robust risk analysis from performance and legislation changes that impacts operations and compliance
- Imbed better partnership working with cross-cutting departments through process reviews and sharing best practice

An action plan has been created to be monitored and developed through the Housing and Assets' Departmental Management Team overseen by the Corporate Leadership Team and Portfolio

Holder for Housing and Assets. The action plan highlights areas within the White Paper and specific consumer standards that are being met and identifies gaps where service areas will need to ensure work continues to remain compliant.

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members are asked to consider approving the Social Housing White Paper topic for inclusion on the scrutiny work programme.**

### **Waste and Recycling**

At the December 2021 meeting of Cabinet, a report on Corporate Risk was presented for consideration. Cabinet Members were asked to review the Corporate Risk Register and the analysis of movement in risk and mitigating actions in respect of those risks.

Within the Corporate Risk Register, the Government's Waste Strategy has been identified as a risk for the Council to be aware of and act against. Comments within the Corporate Risk Register highlight that the Environment Bill has yet to reach final stages within Parliament having recently gone through the House of Lords with several amendments which are likely to delay Royal Assent. Uncertainty remains around mandatory free garden waste collections, discussions continue with other District Councils and the County Council on how mandatory food waste collection will take place within Nottinghamshire. As yet, there are no clear timescales around when any changes will be required to be implemented or how the Council will be financially compensated.

In January 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published a policy paper titled *Waste Management Plan for England 2021*. The plan aims to provide an up-to-date overview of waste management in England but does not outline any new regulations. The government is legally obliged to update the plan every six years under the Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

Following consultation, Defra has set out requirements for separate collection of recyclable waste streams in the Environmental Bill. This will be supported by statutory guidance and further regulations. Defra is legislating through the Environmental Bill to require weekly separate food waste collection from households in England. In addition, the Environment Bill would also require waste collection authorities to separately collect garden waste from households. It says it is to consider the costs and benefits of free garden waste collections before making a final decision on whether it should be required, or whether charging should remain a matter for local decision making. Defra says it also wants to increase recycling from flats and is proposing that measures that apply to kerbside households should apply equally to flats.

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members are asked to consider approving Waste and Recycling for inclusion on the scrutiny work programme.**

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

The scrutiny work programme should include issues based on performance, priority objectives and community concerns. Many of which contribute to the Council's corporate priorities outlined within the Corporate Plan.

### **Legal:**

Consultation with Members on items for the scrutiny work programme is in accordance with the Rules of Procedure set out within the Council's Constitution.

### **Finance:**

Any financial implications identified through items approved to the scrutiny work programme will be appropriately considered as part of the established scrutiny review process.

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	
General Fund – Capital Programme	
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	

### **Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Failure to adequately monitor and refresh the scrutiny work programme could lead to items being added that fail to add value and fall outside of the remit of the Council's scrutiny function.	The scrutiny work programme is a standing item on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda, ensuring Members can appropriately monitor review progress and suitability.

### **Human Resources:**

Any HR implications identified through items approved to the scrutiny work programme will be appropriately considered as part of the established scrutiny review process.

### **Environmental/Sustainability**

Any environmental/sustainability implications identified through items approved to the scrutiny work programme will be appropriately considered as part of the established scrutiny review process.

**Equalities:**

Any equalities implications identified through items approved to the scrutiny work programme will be appropriately considered as part of the established scrutiny review process.

**Other Implications:**

Any other implications identified through items approved to the scrutiny work programme will be appropriately considered as part of the established scrutiny review process.

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

None.

**Reason(s) for Exemption**

None.

**Background Papers**

None.

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

Shane Wright  
Scrutiny Research Officer  
[shane.wright@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:shane.wright@ashfield.gov.uk)  
01623 457318

Ruth Dennis  
Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer)  
[ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk)  
01623 457009

## ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

### SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2021/2022

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves a work programme every year, detailing selected issues that affect Ashfield or its residents. The Scrutiny Work Programme represents the work of scrutiny throughout the municipal year and is managed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at each meeting. The Scrutiny Work Programme is a rolling programme of in-depth reviews alongside standing items considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, such as finance and performance.

Effective processes are used when selecting and prioritising review topics to ensure meaningful outcomes, leading to real improvements. This involves including topics that are of community concern, contribute to the Council's Corporate Priorities, add value to the Council's overall performance, and have defined objectives and clear outcomes.

The Scrutiny Work Programme is approved based on suggestions from Elected Members and Ashfield Council Officers. Members of the public can also contribute topics for consideration and inclusion in the workplan by contacting the Council's Scrutiny Manager at the following email address: [scrutiny@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@ashfield.gov.uk).

Committee/Panel	Remit	Membership
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall management of the Council's scrutiny function and workplan</li> <li>Consideration of constituted standing items</li> <li>Bespoke topic reviews as appropriate</li> </ul>	Cllrs Andrew Harding (Chair), Dale Grounds (Vice Chair), Jim Blagden, Caroline Wilkinson, Chris Baron, Will Bostock, and Lee Waters.
Scrutiny Panel A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bespoke topic reviews delegated by the O&amp;S Committee</li> </ul>	Cllrs David Shaw (Chair), Caroline Wilkinson (Vice Chair), Trevor Locke, Warren Nuttall, Lauren Mitchell, David Walters, and Caroline Wilkinson.
Scrutiny Panel B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bespoke topic reviews delegated by the O&amp;S Committee</li> </ul>	Cllrs Christian Chapman (Chair), Trevor Locke (Vice Chair), Dale Grounds, Jim Blagden, Caroline Wilkinson, David Walters, and Melanie Darrington.
COVID-19 Recovery Scrutiny Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working to develop the Council's COVID-19 recovery plans.</li> </ul>	Cllrs Will Bostock (Chair), David Hennigan (Vice Chair), Jim Blagden, Dale Grounds, Kevin Rostance, David Shaw, and Caroline Wilkinson.

## SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

Item	Item Description	Delegated to	Status
Climate Change Mitigation	Members have been working on the Climate Change Mitigation review. Recently, the Panel has reviewed the draft Climate Change Strategy and are awaiting the opportunity to review the developing Climate Change Action Plan. Potential recommendations have been discussed and will be approved at a future meeting.	Scrutiny Panel B	Looking to present a final report to Cabinet in the New Year.
Tenancy Support	Members commenced this review with concerns regarding sufficient tenancy support in place following the Pandemic and consequences on evictions, money management, and the housing waiting list.	Scrutiny Panel A	Aiming to provide recommendations in line with the proposal to renew the Selective Licensing Scheme.
Play Park Inclusivity	Members commenced a review of the play parks in Ashfield to ensure they are inclusive and accessible.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	To be recommended at a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
Environment Enforcement Contractor	<p>The Council has been working in partnership with an Environmental Enforcement Contractor to provide uniformed enforcement officers and the necessary infrastructure to develop a dedicated Environmental Enforcement Team that has the sole purpose of undertaking littering and dog fouling enforcement duties across the District.</p> <p>As the contract comes towards the end of the original agreed term, Members wish to review</p>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	To be commenced at a date nearer to the end of the agreed term for the partnership to feed into discussions of potential renewal.



	the effectiveness of the partnership and if it should be renewed for another term.		
COVID-19 Recovery	<p>The COVID-19 Recovery Scrutiny Panel has developed a standalone work programme including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccination Programme</li> <li>• Local Business Recovery</li> <li>• Voluntary Sector Organisations</li> <li>• Organisational Recovery</li> </ul> <p>The Panel's work programme will be updated continually throughout the year.</p>	COVID-19 Recovery Scrutiny Panel	Work of the COVID-19 Recovery Scrutiny Panel is ongoing with a work programme developed scheduling key areas to be reviewed over the coming months.

## Standing Items

Item	Description	Responsibility	Timescale
Crime and Disorder	Crime and disorder is considered annually by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Annually
Council Performance	The O&S Committee considers Council performance quarterly to inform workplan topic selection and provide feedback on performance indicators.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Quarterly
Budget	Budget is considered annually by the O&S Committee in line with the annual tax setting process.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Annually
Scrutiny Work Programme	The Scrutiny Work Programme is a standing item on the O&S Committee agenda. This allows the Committee to monitor progress of ongoing reviews and consider new items for the programme.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Each meeting of the O&S Committee