



South Tyneside Council

Work Programme

This document has been classified as: **Official**
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Overview and Scrutiny – 15 July 2026

Report to Riverside Community Area Forum

Cabinet Portfolio/Lead Member: Cllr Susan Sybenga, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Governance, Finance and Resources

Report of Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs

Subject: Work Programme for the Forum 2026/2027

Date: 15 July 2026

Wards affected: All wards.

Council ambitions: Strong Communities

Does the report and any appendices contain information which has been identified as confidential or exempt?

- No, this report does not contain information identified as confidential or exempt.

For Executive Decisions only:

Is the decision a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No

If not in the Forward Plan is the report: N/A

Relevant Scrutiny Chair: N/A

Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny? No

(If the decision is anything other than any executive decision made by the Cabinet or a Key Decision made by an officer under delegated powers, call-in is not applicable. This should be explained in the report).

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Committee's currently scheduled activities for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year in a clear and structured format for the information of Members.
- 1.2 To give Members an opportunity to amend or insert new activities to be considered at future meetings of the Committee.

Background Information

- 2.1.1 At the start of each Municipal Year, Members are invited to agree an initial work programme for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the year ahead.
- 2.2 It is important to note that the work programme is not a rigid document but rather it will form the basis of the Committee's work for the next 12 months and can be amended or supplemented by Members at each meeting. This allows flexibility to reflect emerging priorities.
- 2.3 The Chair will also, on occasion, be asked to approve the inclusion of any additional topics that might arise between meetings.
- 2.4 The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee are as follows:
 - a) approving an annual overview and scrutiny programme that supports the Council in fulfilling its Vision and the Council's Strategy and Ambitions for South Tyneside, challenging performance and influencing, particularly with regards to corporate issues and cross cutting themes and the Council's continuous development against the Vision and Strategy, and to review that programme regularly.
 - b) considering performance reports of the Cabinet against the Council Strategy and Ambitions.
 - c) scrutinising cross-cutting issues where this is appropriate including the Council's culture and ways of working across the organisation.
 - d) determining which Scrutiny Committee should consider an issue where there is any perceived overlap and resolve any disputes, if required.
 - e) operating as the Call-In Committee for all called in decisions in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part D Section 3 of the Constitution.
 - f) acting as the referral point for CCfA, ensuring that, where appropriate, referrals are dealt with at the next available Committee meeting, allocating

referrals to the relevant Scrutiny Committee where appropriate and coordinating responses.

- g) reviewing value for money and service improvement programmes.
- h) receiving and considering a report from the Director of Governance and Corporate Affairs on valid Motions submitted and agreed by Full Council in the previous municipal year to assess action and progress (where appropriate) together with an update against any resolutions and actions agreed by Council.
- i) resolving any disputes between Scrutiny Committees
- j) scrutinising corporate issues, including but not limited to:
 - a. Policy and Performance Management
 - b. Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging
 - c. Finance
 - d. People and Organisational Change Services
 - e. Digital and ICT

Main issues and Options to be Considered

- 3.1 The report seeks suggestions for items for future consideration by the Committee, in line with the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

Implications

Financial and Resources

- 4.1 There are no particular financial or resource implications arising from this report at this time.
- 4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating and Call-in Committee's Terms of Reference include the scrutiny of corporate issues, including finance. Therefore, it is likely that the work programme will feature items and areas of focus with a financial and resource implication.

Legal and Governance

- 5.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees were established as part of the Local Government Act 2000 to scrutinise decisions made by the executive. The

current legislative provisions for Overview and Scrutiny Committees are contained in the Localism Act 2011.

Risk

- 6.1 As this report is presented for information and not for any direct decision-making, there are no direct risks attached to it.

Equality and Diversity and Community

- 7.1 There are no direct equality and diversity and community risks arising from this report.
- 7.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating and Call-in Committee's Terms of Reference include the scrutiny of corporate issues, including equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging. Therefore, it is likely that the work programme will feature items and areas of focus with equality, diversity and community implications.

Environmental and Sustainability

- 8.1 There are no direct environmental or sustainability implications from this report at this time.
- 8.2 The scrutiny framework includes a Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee, which considers a range of areas of focus relating to environmental, ecological and sustainability issues. Overview and Scrutiny is responsible for the co-ordination of scrutiny committee work programmes.

Council Ambitions, Policies, Strategies and Plans

- 9.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating and Call-in Committee should consider a work programme which supports the Council in fulfilling its Vision and the Council's Strategy and Ambitions for South Tyneside, challenging performance and influencing, particularly with regards to corporate issues and cross cutting themes and the Council's continuous development against the Vision and Strategy, and to review that programme regularly.

Consultation and Engagement

- 10.1 Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinating and Call-in Committee where appropriate will engage with external partners to facilitate scrutiny work.

Recommendations

- 11.1 Members are invited to review the issues identified and make any amendments or additions deemed necessary for the work programme for 2026/27.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 12.1 To ensure the Committee has a focused and relevant work programme for 2026/27.

List of Appendices

1. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27.
2. Our Place and Environment Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27.
3. Adult Safeguarding Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27.
4. Children's Safeguarding and Young People Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27.
5. Education and Skills Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27.
6. Contracts and Commissioning Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27.
7. Housing and Environment Scrutiny Work Programme 2026/27.
8. Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

Work Programme

Background Paper	File Ref:	File Location