

# Scrutiny Work Programme Connected City

September 2020

# Connected City

- Cross cutting theme agreed by Scrutiny Board at the meeting held on Tuesday 14 July 2020.
- Connectivity and digital considerations to be considered as part of all items added to the work programme.
- Outcomes and recommendations from all panels will then be fed back to Scrutiny Board to unify into one comprehensive report based on the connected city theme.
- This report and any recommendations made can then be submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

# Why Connected City?

- **Digital Revolution in Wolverhampton underway:**

- Increasing productivity, sparking innovation and driving economic growth by creating new jobs, attracting start-ups and enticing further inward investment.
- Enabling those in education, health and social care sectors to adopt the latest technologies.
- Enabling e-learning techniques in schools, college and universities.
- Providing the foundation for crucial health and social care solutions such as remote monitoring and remote consultations.

- **Roll out of 5G:**

- The Digital divide: Covid-19 has highlighted more issues than previously realised and if not addressed the identified gap will grow - its not just older people who are being left behind:
- 59,000 citizens do not have access to basic digital skills & 35,000 citizens have not been online in the last three months
- Many of those who have not been online are under 60 and often the more vulnerable citizens
- Only 52% of the workforce have the necessary digital skills for work

- **Change is happening faster than we think – it continues to evolve and adapt as the needs of the end user evolve and change. How do we keep up with this to support our citizens?**

# Our Council

How do we use and engage connectivity and digital means to help support:

- Our People
- Our Money
- Our Data
- Our Technology
- Our Assets
- Democracy and Governance

# Work Programme Considerations

1. Does it link to the agreed Connected City theme?
2. Is the issue in the public interest?
3. Can scrutiny add value by looking at it?
4. Where is the evidence to support looking at this issue?
5. Can we evidence impact?
6. Is there a change to National Policy?
7. Does it affect citizens across the City?
8. Are there performance concerns?
9. Is it a safety issue?

# Remit of the Panel

The scrutiny of organisation and performance of the human, financial, technical and material resources to support the delivery of Council services.

## Specific responsibilities

The Panel will have responsibility for scrutiny functions as they relate to:

- Strategic Finance
- Revenues and Benefits
- Procurement
- The Hub
- Audit
- Human Resources
- Democratic & Support Services
- Corporate Landlord
- ICT

**Panel discussion on items for  
inclusion on the draft work programme.**

**Our Council Scrutiny Panel –  
Connected City Theme**

**wolverhampton.gov.uk**





# **Scrutiny Work Programme (draft)**

## **Our Council Scrutiny Panel**

**2020-2021**

**Theme – Connected City**

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## Scrutiny – A New Approach (Connected City)

1. A new approach to scrutiny was agreed at Scrutiny Board on 14 July 2020. Scrutiny Board agreed a cross cutting theme for all panels. The agreed theme was '**Connected City**'. Connectivity and digital considerations will be considered as part of all items added to the work programme.
2. **Roles and expectations** have been defined for the Chairs of Scrutiny Panels, Strategic Executive Board (SEB) leads and Scrutiny Officers; creating a collective understanding of scrutiny's role within the Council. These can be seen in Appendix A.
3. Effective **work planning and agenda setting** will take place to produce **jointly owned work plans**.
4. The first panel meetings will receive an update on the areas that fall within the scope of the panel. There will then be an introduction to the **connected city theme**. This will enable the Panel to consider items for the work programme in line with the '**Connected City**' scrutiny theme.
5. Regular briefings will be arranged with the Scrutiny Panel Chair, Vice Chair, SEB lead and scrutiny officer to enable a shared understanding of priorities and reviews of progress and recommendations.
6. **Improved communication:** 'You said we did' updates and publicity (including social media)
7. Creation of a **strong organisational culture** that supports scrutiny work that **adds real value** and **evidences impact**.
8. Outcomes and recommendations from all panels will then be fed back to Scrutiny Board to unify into one comprehensive report based on the connected city theme.

## **Work Programme considerations:**

1. Is the issue in the public interest?
2. How does it link to the Connected City theme?
3. How can scrutiny add value by looking at it?
4. Where is the evidence to support looking at this issue?
5. Can we evidence impact?
6. Is there a change to National Policy?
7. Does it affect citizens across the City?
8. Are there performance concerns?
9. Is it a safety issue?

## Our Council Scrutiny Panel

|                              |                             |                      |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Chair: Cllr Bhupinder Gakhal | Vice Chair: Cllr Udey Singh | SEB Lead: Claire Nye | Scrutiny Lead: Earl Piggott-Smith |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|

| Date of Meeting   | Agenda Publication | Item Description   | Lead Report Author  | Council Plan Priority | Notes |
|-------------------|--------------------|--|---|-----------------------|-------|
| 30 September 2020 | 22 September 2020  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Council update presentation</li> <li>• Future Work planning</li> <li>• Our Assets Programme</li> <li>• Treasury Outturn Quarter One</li> <li>• Draft Minutes from the Specific Reserves Working Group (9 January 2020) (for information)</li> </ul> | SEB Lead(s)<br><br>Scrutiny Lead/<br>SEB Lead/<br>Scrutiny Chair<br><br>Julia Nock/<br>Mark Bassett<br><br>Alison Shannon |                       |       |
| 25 November 2020  | 17 November 2020   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget</li> </ul>   | Claire Nye/   |                       |       |

|                                 |                       |   |   |  |  |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harnessing the power of digital for the future &amp; agile working</li> </ul>  | <p>Alison Shannon</p> <p>Charlotte Johns</p>                                |  |  |
| 20 January 2021                 | 12 January 2021       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Treasury Management Strategy &amp; Asset disposal Programme</li> <li>• Our People and Employee Offer</li> </ul>  | <p>Claire Nye/<br/>Alison Shannon &amp; Julia Nock</p> <p>Denise Pearce</p> |  |  |
| 17 March 2021                   | 9 March 2021          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio Holder Statement and Question Time</li> </ul>  | Portfolio Holder  |  |  |
| <b>Working Groups</b>           |                       |   |   |  |  |
| Specific Reserves Working Group | December/January 2021 |   |   |  |  |
| <b>Cross Cutting Theme</b>      |                       | <p>Apprenticeships - requested by the Chair for consideration – also applicable to Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel and Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Update on what has taken place to be provided in the first instance for information.</p> |   |  |  |

## Our Council Scrutiny Panel

The scrutiny of organisation and performance of the human, financial, technical and material resources to support the delivery of Council services.

### Specific responsibilities

The Panel will have responsibility for scrutiny functions as they relate to:

- Strategic Finance
- Revenues and Benefits
- Procurement
- The Hub
- Audit
- Human Resources
- Organisational Development
- Democratic & Support Services
- Corporate Landlord
- ICT

## **General Role of the Scrutiny Board and Scrutiny Panels**

**Within the terms of reference set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Scrutiny Board will:**

1. Co-ordinate the work of the Scrutiny Panels and Scrutiny Review Groups.
2. Receive annual reports from the Councillor Champion and give consideration to the work undertaken and issues that the Councillor Champion wishes scrutiny to consider investigating further.
3. Maintain regular dialogue with the Cabinet on service improvement, performance management of cross-cutting issues, policy development and budgetary provision.
4. Oversee and ensure access to appropriate learning and development for scrutiny Councillors.
5. Discharge the call-in procedures relevant to its overarching role.

**The Scrutiny Panels will:**

1. Maintain regular dialogue with the Cabinet, Scrutiny Board and Councillor Champions.
2. Ensure that members of the public and stakeholders are informed of and involved in issues within the remit of each Panel.
3. Discharge the call-in procedure relevant to their terms of reference.



Appendix A:

**1. Chair of Scrutiny Panel:**

- To attend fortnightly meetings with the SEB lead and Scrutiny Officer
- To attend agenda setting meetings and other relevant briefings on a regular basis
- To contribute to the work planning for the panel and to bring forward relevant topics and issues for inclusion
- To chair meetings in a fair and open way and to encourage participation from panel members
- To attend Scrutiny Board (where appropriate) to provide feedback and updates on progress
- To prepare, when possible, questions in advance of a meeting to allow for healthy debate and to ensure that clear resolutions are made that add value and show impact
- To act as champion for scrutiny and to represent the best interests of the citizens of Wolverhampton

**2. SEB Lead:**

- Meet with the Chair, the Vice Chair and the Scrutiny Officer fortnightly to discuss upcoming issues, updates from previous meetings, workplans and any other relevant business as agreed by all parties.
- Recommend topics for inclusion on the workplan, working proactively with the Chair, Vice Chair and Scrutiny Officer to address any issues/opportunities/challenges that fit with the remit of the panel.
- To advise on the viability of any issues put forward by the panel for inclusion on the work plan.
- To attend relevant Scrutiny Panel meetings and provide an update at each meeting on any relevant issues within the remit of the panel. Also, attending Scrutiny Board (as appropriate) to provide feedback.
- To act as a champion for scrutiny in the Council and to encourage engagement with the scrutiny function and promote a healthy culture within which scrutiny can thrive

**3. Scrutiny Officer:**

- Provide support and guidance to the panel, its members, officers, partners and other stakeholders regarding the scrutiny function
- To ensure openness and transparency in the scrutiny function and to make sure that information is continuously shared and communicated between all relevant parties in a timely and suitable fashion
- To ensure that the appropriate persons are invited to meetings and that they are given adequate time to prepare and to provide guidance and support where appropriate
- To manage the administration of all relevant panels and meetings within statutory timescales
- To carry out research and information gathering exercises when required
- To provide advice on policy and legislation where appropriate
- To ensure that all resolutions are followed up and responses or actions fed back, monitored and recorded
- To act as liaison between the Chair and the SEB lead to ensure a shared understanding of priorities and work planning.
- To manage the agreed work plan and its outcomes to show impact and added value