# ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

# SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23

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

Effective processes are used when selecting and prioritising review topics to ensure meaningful outcomes and tangible 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 function at the following email address: [scrutiny@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@ashfield.gov.uk).

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| **Committee/Panel** | **Remit** | **Councillor Membership** |
| Overview and Scrutiny Committee | * Overall management of the Council’s scrutiny function and work programme * Consideration of constituted standing items * Bespoke topic reviews as appropriate | Cllrs Kiers Barsby (Chair), Andrew Harding (Vice Chair), Chris Baron, Will Bostock, Lee Waters, and Daniel Williamson. |
| Scrutiny Panel A | * Bespoke topic reviews delegated by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Cllrs David Shaw (Chair), Caroline Wilkinson (Vice Chair), Dale Grounds, Lauren Mitchell, Warren Nuttall, and David Walters. |
| Scrutiny Panel B | * Bespoke topic reviews delegated by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee | Cllrs Christian Chapman (Chair), Trevor Locke (Vice Chair), Dale Grounds, David Walters, and Caroline Wilkinson. |

# WORKPLAN ITEMS

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| **Item** | **Added** | **Item Description** | **Delegated to** | **Timescale** |
| Gambling Harm | 16.12.21 | Topic was added to the work programme following guidance from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny who are 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. | Scrutiny Panel A | March 2022 – (ongoing) |
| Waste and Recycling | 16.12.21 | The Government’s Waste Strategy has been identified as a risk for the Council to be aware of and act against. | Scrutiny Panel A | TBD |
| Social Housing White Paper | 16.12.21 | The Council has developed an action plan in response to the requirements set out within the Social Housing White Paper. The action plan highlights areas within the White Paper where services will need to ensure work continues to remain compliant. | TBD | TBD |
| Mental Health in the Workplace | 23.06.22 | Mental health is one of the main causes of sickness absence for the Council. Members want to consider how the Council is supporting employees and if there is any best practice in this area that could inform the Council’s approach to supporting mental health issues in the workplace. | TBD | TBD |
| Recruitment and Retention | 23.06.22 | Key issue across the public sector and for the Council. The Council is exploring new and innovative ways to tackle this issue. | TBD | TBD |
| Dog Fouling and Litter Offences | 23.06.22 | Recent rise in reports of dog fouling and litter offences across the District. Maintaining Ashfield’s parks and open spaces is one of the Council’s key priorities. | Scrutiny Panel B | July 2022 – (ongoing) |
| Wildlife Protection | 23.06.22 | Added due to constituent concerns regarding wildlife protection issues and considerations across the District. To consider how the Council works with partners regarding wildlife protection. | TBD | TBD |
| Cost of Living | 23.06.22 | Members voted to declare a cost-of-living emergency at the 7 July 2022 meeting of Council.  Prices continue to rise at an alarming rate, including food, fuel, and energy. Increased reliance on free school meals. Unprecedented use of food banks throughout the country.  Cost of living to be the topic of the State of Ashfield Debate 2022. | Overview and Scrutiny Committee | July 2022 – (ongoing) |
| Towns Fund | 23.06.22 | To consider the progress being made on the implementation of the many Towns Fund/Future High Streets Fund projects.  To understand the selection process for each project and what alternatives were considered. | Overview and Scrutiny Committee | TBD |
| Outside Bodies | 23.06.22 | Appointments to outside bodies are made at the Annual Council Meeting. It has been highlighted that it would be beneficial for scrutiny to consider the reporting processes in place for outside body appointments and how the Council can increase value gained from appointments. | TBD | TBD |

# Standing Items

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| **Item** | **Description** | **Responsibility** | **Timescale** |
| Crime and Disorder | Crime and disorder is considered annually by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. | Overview and Scrutiny Committee | TBD |
| 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 |