

Selection of topics and issues for scrutiny by councillors, officers or members of the public

Anyone wishing to suggest a topic for scrutiny must complete Section 1 of this form.

1. Sources

The following are sources of ideas for the work programme:

- Performance indicators, both national and internal.
- Views of Cabinet and Leadership Team especially in relation to policy subjects.
- The Council's surveys, such as the annual residents' survey.
- The Complaints Report which is compiled annually by the Customer Service Centre.
- Service complaints more widely; although individual cases will not be taken up if a large volume of complaints is received about a single issue then it may be appropriate to pursue the topic.
- Reports of external inspections of services.
- The views of the Council's partners.
- Issues picked up by ward councillors in their locality.
- The Council's Forward Plan

2. Outcomes

Success indicators could include:

- Having identified local needs;
- Having evaluated alternative ways of working/how a service could improve and making recommendations to the Executive or the Council's partners;
- Having developed an awareness of any contractual, economic, legal or structural constraints on Council's or its partners approach.

3. Criteria

To qualify for consideration the topic must meet the following criteria:

- Affect a group or community of people. Scrutiny will not normally look at individual service complaints.
- Relate to a service, event or issue in which Watford Borough Council has a significant stake.
- Not be an issue that Scrutiny has covered during the last year.
- Not be a planning or licensing issue, or any other matter dealt with by another council committee.
- To match one or more of the Council's current priorities.
- To be feasible and able to be completed within the timescale projected for the work.
- There must be availability within the relevant department/service to support the review.
- Be a topic that members wish to scrutinise.

On completion please return to Sandra Hancock, Committee and Scrutiny Officer

By email – sandra.hancock@watford.gov.uk

By post – Democracy and Governance, Watford Borough Council, Town Hall, Watford, WD17 3EX

Suggestions for topics to be scrutinised – evaluation table

A Member, Officer or member of the public suggesting a topic for scrutiny must complete Section1 as fully as possible. Completed tables will be presented to Overview & Scrutiny for consideration.

Section 1 – Scrutiny Suggestion	
Proposer: Councillor/Officer/Member of public	
<p>Topic recommended for scrutiny:</p> <p><i>Please include as much detail as is available about the specific such as;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>areas which should be <u>included</u> in the review.</i> • <i>areas which should be <u>excluded</u> from the review.</i> • <i>Whether the focus should be on past performance, future policy or both.</i> 	<p><i>Tackling loneliness</i></p>
<p>Why have you recommended this topic for scrutiny?</p>	<p>I would like this council to help find strategic ways across party to help tackle loneliness. This Council notes that being or living alone in total isolation can be a public health issue and risk that must be tackled starting at a local level. Feelings of loneliness and social isolation can affect people at any stage of their life but are particularly more critical when it happens to older age people. We know that loneliness has two important distinctions a) risk factors leading up to a deterioration in health and well being b) effects this would have on individuals and public services.</p>

<p>What are the specific outcomes you wish to see from the review?</p> <p><i>Examples might include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>To identify what is being done and what the potential barriers are;</i> • <i>To review relevant performance indicators;</i> • <i>To compare our policies with those of a similar authority;</i> • <i>To assess the environmental/social impacts;</i> • <i>To Benchmark current service provision;</i> • <i>To find out community perceptions and experience;</i> • <i>To identify the gap between provision and need</i> 	<p>I would like to see that there is a clear point of contact that people can have access to either the person who is suffering or any other person who knows of someone. This could be a local councillor who comes across a vulnerable person they could be referred.</p> <p>I would also like to see more shared partnerships between all the various local charities that may be able to help bring about change. I am concerned that local charities are not talking to each other often enough and I would like to see a task group that also includes some of the most appropriate charities represented so we can work together.</p> <p>At present Manchester and Coventry councils have adopted and worked out a plan to fit this in the council.</p> <p>It is predicted that between 2008 and 2033 there will be large increases in the number of older people living alone particularly in the 85+ age range.</p> <p>Raising councillors' awareness of the issue, how to identify potential lonely people and what to do.</p>
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<p>How do you think evidence might be obtained?</p> <p><i>Examples might include</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questionnaires/Surveys • Site visits • Interviewing witnesses • Research • Performance data • Public hearings • Comparisons with other local authorities 	<p>I would like to start off by carrying out a survey and using social media to reinforce our efforts.</p> <p>From councillors during their canvassing door to door who may have identified people who are living alone.</p> <p>We would need to collect data from various sources, mosaic profiling, council services, local charities/community groups.</p> <p>Herts county council will also be a good source.</p> <p>Information from expert witnesses</p>
<p>Does the proposed item meet the following criteria?</p>	
<p>It must affect a group or community of people</p>	<p>Old aged people mainly</p> <p>Young people who have lost partners</p> <p>Single parents</p> <p>Young people</p>
<p>It must relate to a service, event or issue in which the council has a significant stake.</p>	<p><i>health and well being and the town's vulnerable communities</i></p>

<p>It must not have been a topic of scrutiny within the last 12 months</p> <p><i>There will be exceptions to this arising from notified changing circumstances. Scrutiny will also maintain an interest in the progress of recommendations and issues arising from past reports.</i></p>	<p>This topic has not been covered by scrutiny</p>
<p>It must not be an issue, such as planning or licensing, which is dealt with by another council committee</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Does the topic meet the council's priorities?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify ways to manage the borough's housing needs 2. Champion smart growth and economic prosperity 3. Provide for our vulnerable and disadvantaged communities 4. Deliver a digital Watford to empower our community 5. Secure our own financial future

<p>Are you aware of any limitations of time, other constraints or risks which need to be taken into account?</p> <p><i>Factors to consider are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>forthcoming milestones, demands on the relevant service area and member availability:</i> • <i>imminent policy changes either locally, regionally or nationally within the area under review.</i> 	<p>None that I am aware of</p>
<p>Does the topic involve a Council partner or other outside body?</p>	<p>Local charities police, and Herts county council</p>

<p>Are there likely to be any Equality implications which will need to be considered?</p> <p><i>Protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Age</i> • <i>Disability</i> • <i>Gender reassignment</i> • <i>Pregnancy or maternity</i> • <i>Race</i> • <i>Religion or belief</i> • <i>Sex</i> • <i>Sexual orientation</i> • <i>Marriage or civil partnership (only in respect of the requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination)</i> 	<p>To be considered as part of the review and when recommendations are agreed.</p>
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<p>Sign off <i>(It is expected that any Councillor proposing a topic agreed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee will participate in the Task Group)</i></p>	
<p>Councillor/Officer</p> <p><i>Bilqees Mauthoor</i></p>	<p>Date</p> <p>15 May 2017</p>