

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	SCRUTINY INQUIRY 2024/25 - SHORTLIST		
DATE OF DECISION:	22 AUGUST 2024		
REPORT OF:	SCRUTINY MANAGER		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director – Enabling Services	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
N/A			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
This Committee is responsible for identifying the topic for the annual scrutiny inquiry. Following consultation, the Chair has identified a shortlist of potential subjects. The Committee are asked to consider the shortlisted subjects and identify a preferred topic for the 2024/25 inquiry.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Committee considers the shortlist of subjects for the 2024/25 scrutiny inquiry and identifies a preferred topic for which terms of reference can be developed for consideration at the October 2024 meeting of the Committee.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To enable the scrutiny inquiry to commence in November 2024.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	A number of suggested topics have been rejected to enable a shortlist to be developed.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	Each year the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertakes an inquiry that looks in detail at a specific issue with the objective of improving outcomes in Southampton. A list of completed inquiries can be accessed via - Completed inquiries (southampton.gov.uk) .		
4.	It is the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to determine the inquiry topic for the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to undertake, and to agree outline terms of reference for the inquiry.		
5.	In June a request was made to Group Leaders for suggestions for the 2024/25 scrutiny inquiry.		

6.	From the suggestions submitted, the Chair, in consultation with the Scrutiny Manager, has developed a shortlist of topics from which the Committee are asked to identify a preferred subject.
7.	<p>Whilst the criteria employed is not prescriptive, in general it is recommended that the topic for an inquiry should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not be overtly political • Not be an issue that has been the subject of a previous scrutiny inquiry • Reflect an issue impacting on the city • Be something that the city can influence • Be linked to corporate objectives • Preferably be an issue that is beginning to attract national attention.
	Shortlist
8.	<p>The Committee are asked to select a preferred topic from the following suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gambling harms b. Sustainable housing development (specific focus needs to be determined)
	Gambling harms
9.	Gambling addiction is a growing problem nationally and Southampton is one of a few cities in the UK to have a gambling addiction clinic. It can have a devastating impact on individuals, families, communities and comes at a significant cost to public finances and services.
10.	Good practice exists. A national review has been undertaken by Public Health England on gambling harms, and the LGA have produced a toolkit on tackling gambling harm via a whole council approach. This inquiry would represent an opportunity to learn from other areas and take a lead locally on this cross-cutting and growing issue.
11.	The Director of Public Health has indicated that the service would support this inquiry and, reflecting concerns about the impact of gambling in Southampton, have commissioned background research that could inform the inquiry.
	Sustainable housing development
12.	<p>In recognition that the issue would require a more focused terms of reference to be deliverable, a number of possible aspects have been proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the district heating zoning (what is required to make that step change?) • Implementing higher housing density effectively as laid out in the local plan and described in some aspects of the master-planning process • Preventing flood risk / promoting sustainable drainage • Growing the city without running out of energy.

13.	<p>When determining the 2023/24 scrutiny inquiry the subject of making higher density living work in Southampton was proposed. The following information was provided by Cllr Bogle to advocate for the inquiry:</p> <p><i>'In relation to the Local Plan and housing targets and the experience/learnings to date of the city's large high-density developments, I think we have a chance to do high density living much better and think through what our ask is in terms of amenity space, access to public transport and sustainability considerations.</i></p> <p><i>It would be useful to get insights from areas that already have high density living in Southampton, including from ward cllrs, plus a better understanding of what is likely to be needed (from the Local Plan team) and ideas regarding best practice and identifying places where this has been done well in the UK and internationally.</i></p> <p><i>Whatever came out of an inquiry could inform the local plan process and also master plans for specific areas, and also help engage residents in areas where we need to deliver higher density living.'</i></p>
14.	<p>It is proposed that the Committee consider the options outlined above and decide upon a preferred topic. Following this, outline terms of reference for the preferred topic will be developed for consideration and approval at the 24 October 2024 meeting of this Committee.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
15.	None.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
16.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
17.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
18.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
19.	None
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
20.	None
KEY DECISION	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	None

Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
Data Protection Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None