

Scrutiny Work Programmes 2023/24

Summary of main topics and meeting dates

Committee	Main topic areas	Meetings
Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate performance monitoring • Budget, finances and resources (incl staff capacity) • ‘Deeper devolution’ • Decision making and governance • Projects: ICS, Wellington House refurbishment, MCA Digital Programme, Procurement and social value 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 September 2023 • 24 November 2023 • 19 January 2024 (Mayors Questions) • 8 March 2024 (PM)
Transport & Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus franchising and service improvement (incl BSIP+) • Mass Transit • Strategy, policy and Local Transport Plan 4 pre-scrutiny • Performance monitoring of transport network, bus services, passenger experience and transport projects • Affordable Housing (achievement of mayoral pledge) • Projects: Flexi Bus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 September 2023 • 1 December 2023 (Mayors Questions) • 26 January 2024 • 15 March 2024
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic outlook/data • Economic strategy development: strategic challenges, current / future challenges • Adult Education Budget and adult learning • School engagement, apprenticeships and youth learning • Approach to business support and investment, including culture / creative industries • Economics services performance/outputs monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 September 2023 • 17 November 2023 • 12 January 2024 • 1 March 2024 • 8 March 2024 (PM) (Mayors Questions)

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Topic	Sub-topics/focuses	Date
Strategic focus and performance monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is performance monitored – how does the process work? (Who monitors it? What data is collected and how is it presented?) Logic and assumptions behind deciding the actual KPI/target/objective numbers; evidence based, need based, capacity based? Is it 'arbitrary'? Focus on long term progression 'journey of delivery' for greater context – past KPIs, current, future. What impact is the CA actually making? What 'levers' does it actually have? Is there proof of 'additionality'? Strategic alignments: Region-first thinking, avoiding local parochialism; Levelling up within WY vs Leeds centricity (inclusion in KPIs and performance monitoring of it?); Competition between districts and in district priorities (especially in bidding)? 	22 September 2023
Budget and resources (including staff capacity)	<p><u>Budget and finances:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usual budget monitoring and pre-scrutiny. Gainshare spending + Gateway Review 2023/2024. Reserves policy/level – Audit's view of risks and viability. Corporate borrowing – possibility, rules, amount. Revenue raising and additional sources of funding. Use of past data to contextualise current budget against past budgets and future projected budgets. <p><u>Staff capacity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the organisation have the staff to deliver? Pressures between efficiency savings (e.g. vacancy management, lower pay awards in competitive market) and delivery capacity. Recruitment and retention challenges in local government – what are the areas of concern, what can be done, where can the five authorities work together (e.g. pooling resources). Progress and changes since the last staff survey analysis (and historic context). 	<p>24 November 2023 (+ Gateway Review as separate item)</p> <p>19 January 2024 (workshop after committee meeting)</p>
Deeper devolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current status of promised powers that have not yet been devolved e.g. planning. (Autumn update?) Future expected further devolution, including 'single settlement' funding model. 	19 January 2024
Decision making and governance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance rules and structure etc. How are decisions made – from the origin point (inception) of an idea (or need) to policy/service development, to scrutiny/discussion, to decision, to monitoring delivery, to evaluation. 	22 September 2023 (Assurance Framework)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of members and level of control and influence over process. • Role of officers and internal decision-making structures – when do officers decide, when do members decide. • How each stage is communicated to stakeholders (members, public) and how they are involved. • The Assurance Framework and role of PAT in project decisions/management/scrutiny/evaluation etc. • Scrutiny system. 	<p>element and project decision-making)</p> <p>TBC – other elements, possibly after/alongside deeper devolution item.</p>
Project: Integrated Corporate System (ICS)	Update on progress since last year.	TBC – when the system is live
Project: Wellington House refurbishment	Post-project Evaluations report.	TBC – when evaluations report is complete. Chair to advise.
Project: MCA Digital Programme	Briefing on project and progress.	1 March 2023, as part of Cyber Security
Project: Procurement and social value	Update from last year: methodology, risks, real value.	TBC – Chair to receive briefing and suggest way forward
Scrutiny Protocol	Review of government’s newly published Scrutiny Protocol, which WYCA must be compliant with to receive additional powers and funding through Level 4 Devolution. Review will assess WYCA’s current compliance level and recommend changes to a) be compliant and b) improve scrutiny in general.	Working Group report to 1 March meeting

Transport & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee

Topic	Sub-topics/focuses	Date
Bus reform and improvement	<p>Overview of long-term bus reform plans (Franchising) and short-term efforts to improve bus services in the meantime (BSIP, etc)</p> <p>Long term reforms – Bus franchising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and update on bus franchising and upcoming consultation (<i>to be approved at 28 Sept CA meeting, held the day before TSC</i>) <p>Short term improvements – BSIP update and performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update/changes in BSIP since 2021/22 (<i>when the committee last looked at it</i>) 	<p>22 September 2023 – Overview, background and update (ahead of bus franchising consultation)</p> <p>26 January 2024 – Further update on franchising consultation and BSIP</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most updated quarterly report and KPIs – including update on RTI accuracy (<i>considered by committee last Sept</i>). • Bus network performance and passenger experience data <p>Areas of interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current bus service / operator performance issues - Effects of service cuts and possible solutions - Public engagement, customer service quality re complaints, consultations and service changes 	TBC – look at consultation report and results around March 2024 final approval
Mass Transit	Overview of the background to the Mass Transit scheme, level of funding, short term and long-term timelines, main challenges and risk assessment, legal questions, type of transit systems being considered and how future proof it is, public consultation, and multi-modal connectivity.	26 January 2024 Any further update based on timelines
Overview and Monitoring – transport services and projects/schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KPI, projects, objectives – performance and achievement. • Understand transport schemes, funding/bidding, strategic and ROI criteria, impact assessments on non-transport areas. 	29 September 2023 – buses/passenger experience
Strategy/policy and Local Transport Plan 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonisation (and government assessment toolkit) • Behaviour Change and Active Travel (including bikes, e-bikes/e-scooters, and motorbikes) • Freight and waterways as a resource • Current and future transport trends; the pandemic and beyond (bus/rail footfall, homeworking positives vs rise in deliveries) • Infrastructure, energy and sustainability challenges and opportunities of future proof transport system (electricity demand vs sources, lithium dependency and mining, effect on other industries and sectors)] • Pollution, health and clean air zones 	15 March 2024 (LTP4 consultation in Summer 2024, for adoption in 2025)
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of ‘affordable’ and ‘sustainable’ targets • Challenges and solutions (target vs need in region) • Available funding and what it is being spent on 	1 December 2023, at MQT 15 March 2024
Projects: Flexi Bus	Review July Transport Cttee report and reason for non-viability and early termination, and circumstances of decision	Workshop for working group, 26 January 2024 (PM)

Economy Scrutiny Committee

Topic	Sub-topics/focuses	Dates
Economic outlook and strategic challenges	<p><u>Current situation/data:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest data and economic outlook since last year e.g. economic figures, inflation, cost of living effects • Any comparisons with neighbouring regions with overlapping economic footprints e.g. NY and GM. <p><u>Current/persistent challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing post-pandemic challenges: effects on town centres / hospitality businesses and plans to deal with this (e.g. shopfront grants, cultural exhibitions, IT/study areas); changes in work habits and effects of people being able to work remotely on local economies and other areas. • Persistent economic challenges: NEETs, people 'missing' from data, part time work trends, over-50s/retirees returning to work, green sector/skills growth and preparation, manufacturing in need of support, inter-regional imbalances in economic growth/jobs within WY, and retention of talent within WY. <p><u>New/Future challenges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI, automation, green/decarbonisation (+ any other disruptions?) which have accelerated recently and their potential consequences on the regional economy, businesses and jobs. • Are we prepared for these challenges? Can we get ahead of other MCAs/areas and position ourselves as leaders in these emerging markets? • Potential conflict between productivity/growth/tech advancement vs job creation/community/place/diversity considerations. <p><u>Economic Strategy update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How we are addressing the above challenges through the economic strategy + current thinking/progress + timeline for finalisation and adoption 	<p>15 September 2023 – intro and main discussion</p> <p>8 March 2024 – update on economic strategy</p>
Adult Education Budget, Schools and Training Providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on last year's AEB performance and this year's spending and outputs. • School engagement and young people opportunities and apprenticeships • Apprenticeships and non-university career routes 	17 November 2023
Business investment and outcomes (including culture + creative industries) and	<p><u>Business investment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How we are investing in businesses and generating outcomes <p><u>Culture and creative industries:</u></p>	8 March 2024

<p>performance monitoring/outputs/funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mayoral objective, an increasing percentage of the region’s economy and upcoming/recent city of culture events (in Bradford and Leeds) <p><u>Performance monitoring and KPIs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring achievement of economy targets/KPIs from the corporate plan. • “Follow the money”: where is funding coming from, how is it spent, what are the revenue opportunities. • Inter-regional levelling up, avoidance of Leeds-centricity, ensuring certain areas/towns are not forgotten, place-based element of targets/KPIs e.g. number of jobs/houses/businesses supported in different districts 	
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Minutes from all scrutiny committee meetings 2023/24:

Economy:

- 15 September 2023- <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=228&MId=1342&Ver=4>
- 17 November 2023- <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=228&MId=1343&Ver=4>
- 12 January 2024- <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=228&MId=1344&Ver=4>

Corporate:

- 22 September 2023- <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=226&MId=1346&Ver=4>
- 24 November 2023- <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=226&MId=1347&Ver=4>
- 19 January 2024- <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=226&MId=1348&Ver=4>

Transport:

- 29 September 23- <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=227&MId=1338&Ver=4>
- 1 December 2023- <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=227&MId=1339&Ver=4>
- 26 January 2024- <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=227&MId=1340&Ver=4>