

Scrutiny Work Programmes 2021/22

Summary of main topics

Committee	Topics	Meetings
Corporate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partnerships and mayoral soft power 2. Budget and business planning 3. Overall strategic and financial decision-making 4. Workforce and corporate systems 	19 November 2021 (MQT) 21 January 2022 11 March 2022
Transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Buses (franchising and improvement plans) 2. Behaviour change in decarbonisation 3. Freight (incl waterways) 4. Road management and policy 5. Rail reforms 	18 November 2021 20 January 2022 (MQT) 10 March 2022
Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COVID-19 recovery: growth, jobs and skills 2. Impact of inward investment (Incl. Channel 4 & culture) 3. Rural issues 4. Housing pledge and powers 	17 November 2021 19 January 2022 ?? February 2022 – possible II/C4 workshop 9 March 2022 (MQT)
<i>All Committees</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. (Relevant) Mayors Pledges 2. Work programme 	9 July 2021 – induction intro workshop

Contents

Corporate Scrutiny Work Programme	page 2
Transport Scrutiny Work Programme	page 5
Economy Scrutiny Work Programme	page 8

Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Summary:

1. Partnerships and mayoral soft power
2. Budget and business planning
3. Overall strategic and financial decision-making
4. Workforce and corporate systems

Topic	Sub-topics	Objectives	Meetings	Notes and tracking
Partnerships and mayoral soft power	West Yorkshire partnership	<p>Understand how well the CA works with the five authorities and York in all matters – incl. possibly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • officer liaison, • knowledge sharing, • policy development, • project management, • service delivery, • communications / engagement, • and any other cooperation <p>Explore quality of current relationships between CA + councils and between councils and potential areas for improvement in joint working.</p>	TBC	
	External partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what is being done to strengthen relationships with other Mayors/MCAs (on pan-northern and cross-border things) and central government (and other key stakeholders such as operators). • Understand what other partnership opportunities are being identified and how they are pursued. 	TBC	

	Communications & Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the Mayor / CA's comms/marketing/engagement strategy to raise their profile. Explore how well the CA engages with elected members and the public (particularly consultation on schemes) 	TBC	
Budget and business planning	Budget setting and business planning 2022/23	Explore the biggest pressures and risks and possible mitigations in budget setting (2022/23).	January 2022 Possible December 2021 Workshop	
	Budget performance 2021/22	Monitor budget performance in the current financial year (2021/22).	Standing Item	
Overall strategic and financial decision-making	Gainshare, strategic investment framework and other spending priorities	Understand and explore how the Mayor / CA decide what to invest in – particularly Gainshare (E.g. Strategic Investment Framework.)	January 2022 Possible December 2021 Workshop	
	Sources of funding	Understand what possible extra funding sources are available to the CA – including government funding, business rates and precepts.	January 2022 Possible December 2021 Workshop	
	Strategic prioritisation and consistency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how strategic priorities are determined. Explore how conflicts between priorities are resolved and which priorities had to be left out. 	January 2022 Possible December 2021 Workshop	
	Impact and performance assessment	Understand the process and methodology of performance and impact assessment and how it is considered during decision making (E.g. carbon impacts, EDI)	January 2022 Possible December 2021 Workshop	
	New governance and scrutiny structures	Monitor the effectiveness of the new governance and scrutiny structures	March 2022	

		established after the Mayor's election – and review as appropriate.		
Workforce and corporate systems	Workforce planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how the workforce has evolved since the MCA was established – and future expectations. • Explore current preparations and any challenges or areas of concern (such as funding, resources, and delivery capacity). 	March 2022 Possible workshop February	
	Recruitment, retention and apprenticeships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how well the CA attracts, recruits, utilises and retains talent – (local talent in particular) and explore current challenges in these areas. • Understand the current position with regards to apprenticeships within the CA. 	March 2022 Possible workshop February	
	Upgrade of corporate systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand plans to upgrade internal systems. • Explore the capacity for greater harmonisation of systems across the five member authorities and CA e.g. in finance, HR, ICT and project management. 	March 2022 Possible workshop February	
	Cyber security and ICT resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the CA's current position re: cyber security and ICT resilience. • Explore current risks and how the CA will evolve now the pandemic exposed increasing reliance on technology and system/information security vulnerability. 	March 2022 Possible workshop February	

Transport Scrutiny Committee

Summary:

1. Buses (franchising and improvement plans)
2. Behaviour change in decarbonisation
3. Freight (incl waterways)
4. Road management and policy
5. Rail reforms

Topic	Sub-topics	Objectives	Meetings	Notes and tracking
Buses <i>(in parallel with behaviour changes)</i>	Bus franchising	Understand ambitions for bus franchising and the statutory process (including lessons learned from Greater Manchester)	November 2021 March 2022	
	Bus improvement plans: 1. network coverage – rural and urban 2. connectivity and integration with modes (e.g. Rail, cycling and walking) 3. reliability and frequency of services (including use of technology) 4. costs and ticketing 5. partnership working (with transport operators and councils)	Understand the current position of the bus network in WY and explore bus improvement plans – with a focus on the subtopics.	November 2021 March 2022	
Behaviour changes (and inclusion) in decarbonisation	Research, data and general understanding	Explore current understandings in the transport sector about: 1. why people travel how they do	November 2021 January 2022	

<i>(in parallel with bus improvement plans)</i>		2. how habits changed over time 3. what changes habits		
	'Seldom heard groups'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the challenges faced by 'seldom heard groups' (e.g. disabled, neurodiverse) in using transport and how well they are engaged in consultations. Explore if their needs are being taken adequately into account. 	November 2021 January 2022	
	Youth engagement	Understand current engagement with young people and explore what more could be done.	November 2021 January 2022	
	Unlikely transport users	Understand how unlikely transport users are defined, identified, considered and engaged.	November 2021 January 2022	
Freight (incl. waterways)		Understand current position on freight and explore how assets such as waterways/canals have been considered as decarbonisation and commercial/economic opportunities.	Possible workshop	
Road policy and management		Understand current position on roads and explore how roads and highway policy/management is harmonised and coordinated across the region: 1. how it works now, 2. why it wasn't changed with devolution 3. how it could work in future	TBC	
Rail reforms		Monitor national plans and reforms in the rail sector and explore	TBC	

		possible implications for West Yorkshire.		
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Economy Scrutiny Committee

Summary

1. COVID-19 recovery: growth, jobs and skills
2. Impact of inward investment (Incl. Channel 4 & culture)
3. Rural issues
4. Housing pledge and powers

Topic	Sub-topics	Objectives	Meetings	Notes and tracking
COVID-19 recovery: economic growth, job creation, skills, and other opportunities	Data and intelligence	Understand economic picture, what economic/social data is analysed and how it influences CA activity.	November 2021 January 2022	
	Influence and impact of CA/LEP activity – outputs, outcomes & additionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what levers the CA has to make an impact on the economy. • Explore return on investment and whether a) targets are being achieved and b) if this constitutes additionality. 	November 2021 January 2022	
	Jobs and skills strategy – short and long term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand job creation strategy and explore outcomes. • Understand how CA can help plug short term demands (such as shortages in HGV drivers, agricultural workers, service, retail, hospitality and security staff etc) 	November 2021 January 2022	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore long term AEB strategy and how local labour needs and are calculated and considered. 		
	Local growth – strengths and assets vs weaknesses and gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand region’s unique assets/opportunities and ‘growth engines’ and what other strengths could be developed and utilised to drive growth – particularly long term and ‘future proof’ sectors. Understand the region’s economic weaknesses (e.g. productivity and innovation) what gaps there are in the current recover/growth strategy and explore possible mitigations. 	November 2021 January 2022	
	Other post-pandemic opportunities	Explore potential post-pandemic opportunities e.g. rise in ‘entrepreneurship’ as alternate ‘job creation’ and local ‘community economies’.	November 2021 January 2022	
	Partnership working – partner councils	Understand current joint working with partner councils to avoid duplication and fit in with local strategies.	November 2021 January 2022	
Impact of inward investment	Return on investment and additionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore whether targets are being met and 	Possible workshop February 2022	

	(Channel 4 as a case study)	<p>whether there is an appropriate return on investment vs resources dedicated to supporting incoming enquiries and outgoing proactive bids.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore level of – and evidence of – additionality and whether investment makes a difference in relocations and leads to economic outputs. • Understand implications of possible competition between areas within WY and between MCA areas. • CASE STUDY: Explore if Channel 4 investment delivered promised outcomes – immediate (number of jobs created) and strategic (catalyst for growth in local creative sector). 		
Rural issues	Strategic gap	Understand how well rural-specific issues have been considered in wider strategies/plans, analysis and support services – in particular, agricultural/food business in the context of local supply chain resilience,	January 2022	

		skills shortages and business support/grants.		
	Digital connectivity	Explore current activity aiming to improve digital connectivity in rural areas.	January 2022	
Housing pledge and powers	Powers – current and future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand CA's current housing powers in the absence of spatial strategy and other devolution planning powers – and how CA's functions are expected to change in the future? • Understand how CA can enable housing development within current powers while housing remains an LA function. 	January 2022	
	Delivering pledge and coordination with partner councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore steps which could be taken to ensure homes are affordable and targets are met. • Understand how local plans will be taken into consideration. 	January 2022	