

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Item No.</b>
<b>Open</b>	

<b>Meeting:</b>	Health Scrutiny
<b>Meeting date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> June 2025
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Development of a work programme for 2025/2026</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Josh Ashworth</b> Senior Scrutiny Officer
<b>Decision Type:</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Ward(s) to which report relates</b>	<b>All</b>

### 1. Purpose

This paper outlines the forward plan for the Health Scrutiny Committee, ensuring statutory responsibilities are met, conventional areas of focus are maintained, and recent commitments are followed through. It also reflects on the topics covered in the previous year to inform future planning.

### 2. Statutory Responsibilities

- Scrutiny of NHS and Public Health Services
- Review of Substantial Variations in Health Services
- Oversight of Complaints and Patient Feedback

### 3. Conventional and Partnership Commitments

- Healthwatch Engagement
- Public Health Priorities
- Joint Working with Adult Social Care and ICS Partners

### 4. Topics Covered in 2024/25

The Committee received updates and reports on the following:

- Health and Care Update
- Elective Care Updates
- Health Inequalities Strategy Updates
- Workforce Updates
- Urgent Care and Winter Preparedness
- Adult Social Care Provider Workforce Support
- Bury ICP Locality Performance

- Updates from Bury Healthwatch
- Adult Social Care Updates
- Women's Health Update
- Local Government Association Update
- Your Medicines Matter Campaign
- Locality Plan Update
- Pharmacy First Update

The Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee also highlighted the strong partnership between the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the GM Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, introducing a standing agenda item which the Chair provided regular updates on developments at a Greater Manchester level these updates will continue going forward into this municipal year.

These discussions could inform the development of the 2025/26 work programme.

## 5. Proposed Areas for 2025/26

Building on last year's work, the Committee may wish to focus on for discussion

- Access to Services (GPs, Dentistry, Urgent Care, NHS 111)
- Health Inequalities (Deep dive into local disparities and strategy implementation)
- Workforce Pressures (Recruitment, retention, and wellbeing across health and care)
- ICS Governance and Locality Performance (Transparency, outcomes, and integration)
- Public Health Focus (Mental health, substance misuse, prevention strategies)
- Women's Health and Maternity Services (Follow-up and further exploration)

## 6. Terms of Reference

A dedicated Health Scrutiny Committee was set up to scrutinise partner organisations on issues relevant to the residents of the Borough. Full terms of reference are:

- Adult social care (including adult safeguarding)
- Health and wellbeing board
- Housing
- Public health
- Adults and Communities budget and policy framework
- Statutory health scrutiny powers including the review and scrutiny of any matter relating to the planning provision and operation of health services for children and young people, including transitional health care services, affecting the area and to make reports and recommendations on these matters

## 7. Work Programme 2025/26

7.1 The Health Scrutiny Committee is required to set a work programme for 2025/2026

7.2 A well thought out and effective Work Programme will allow work to be time-tabled to ensure completion and help determine when and what resources may be needed.

7.3 Within the Programme it is important to ensure that there is the capacity to provide an urgent response to issues that arise during the year and need to be dealt with at short notice. Scrutiny of Key Executive decisions will form a large element of the Committee's work during the year, and it is important that flexibility is built into the Work Programme to allow for this to take place.

7.4 To assist in the development of an outcome focussed, measurable, realistic and timely Work Programme, a Prioritisation Protocol is set out below. The Protocol sets out some initial questions to be

asked of proposed topics and includes further questions and filters to help achieve a prioritised and deliverable work programme.

## 8. Conclusion

The information contained in this report provides an outline of the terms of reference for the Health Scrutiny Committee along with a Work Programme Prioritisation Protocol to assist in setting an outcome based, focussed, balanced and deliverable work programme based on the priorities of Bury Council and its residents.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Prioritising Topics for Scrutiny**

When deciding which items to include on the Scrutiny Work Programmes it can sometimes become confusing and difficult to identify the topics which are most important or worthy of scrutiny.

#### **Section 1 - At the outset**

When topics have been identified as possible Scrutiny Work Programme items, Members and their support Officers should ask the following of each topic identified;

- **Does the issue have a potential impact for one or more sections of the population?** Yes – Leave on Work Programme
- **Is the issue strategic and significant?** Yes – Leave on Work Programme
- **Is there a clear objective for scrutinising this topic?** Can objective be identified – Yes leave on Work Programme
- **Is there evidence to support the need for scrutiny?** Yes – Leave on Work Programme
- **What are the likely benefits to the Council and its customers? What do we hope to achieve?** If identifiable – Leave on Work Programme
- **Are you likely to achieve a desired outcome?** Can benefits to Council and customers be achieved?
- **What are the potential risks?**
- **Are there adequate resources available to do the activity well?**
- **Is the Scrutiny activity timely?** Yes – Leave on Work Programme

#### **Section 2 – Criteria to Reject**

Once the questions above have been answered and the topics are still included on the Work Programme, Members should move onto the following rejection filters:-

Reject if;

- The issue is being examined elsewhere e.g. officer group, other Councillor group.
- Issue was reviewed less than 2 years ago
- New legislation or guidance expected within the year
- No scope for scrutiny to add value/make a difference
- The objective cannot be achieved in the specified timescale
- Changes are currently being /have recently been implemented

#### **Section 3 – Prioritisation of Topics**

The following questions should be asked when looking to prioritise potential work programme items.

##### **Public interest**

- Has the issue been identified by Members through surgeries and other contact with constituents?(on how many occasions – more occasions warrants a higher score).

- Has a user dissatisfaction with the service been identified? (complaints).
- Topic identified through Market Surveys/Citizens Panel.
- Has the issue been covered in the local media?

**Internal Council priority**

- Council Priority area?
- There is a high level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area (as percentage of total expenditure)
- There has been a pattern of budgetary overspends
- The service is a poor performer (evidence from performance indicators/benchmarking).

**External Factors**

- Central Government priority area
- Issues raised by External Audit Management Letter/External Audit Reports.
- Key reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on key issue.

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**Community impact/links with Community Strategy**

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**Equality Impact and considerations:**

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**Assessment of Risk:**

The following risks apply to the decision:

<b>Risk / opportunity</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>

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**Consultation:**

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**Legal Implications: N/A**

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**Financial Implications: N/A**

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**Report Author and Contact Details:**

**Josh Ashworth**  
**Senior Scrutiny Officer**  
**Democratic Services**  
[J.R.Ashworth@bury.gov.uk](mailto:J.R.Ashworth@bury.gov.uk)

