WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL	**Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 5 April 2016**	**Agenda Item No. 9**

Title	Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan
For further information about this report please contact	Lesley Dury, Committee Services Officer, 01926 456114 or committee@warwickdc.gov.uk
Service Area	Democratic Services
Wards of the District directly affected	N/A
Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006	No
Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number	8 March 2016
Background Papers	

Contrary to the policy framework:	No
Contrary to the budgetary framework:	No
Key Decision?	No
Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)	No
Equality and Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken	No
n/a	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	**Date**	**Name**
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		
Head of Service		
CMT		
Section 151 Officer		
Monitoring Officer		
Finance		
Portfolio Holder(s)		
Consultation & Community Engagement		
n/a		
Final Decision?	Yes	
Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)		

1. Summary

1.1 This report informs the Committee of its work programme for 2016 (Appendix 1) and of the current Forward Plan April 2016 to July 2016 (Appendix 2).

2. Recommendations

2.1 The report be noted;

2.2 Any amendments suggested at the meeting for the Work Programme, be made accordingly;

2.3 The Committee to identify any future Executive decisions to be made, or future policies to be adopted, which members wish to have an input into before the Executive take the decision, and either:

1. nominate one member to investigate that future decision/policy and report back to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, before the final report is submitted to the Executive.

2. request an officer report to be submitted to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, before the final report is submitted to the Executive.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1 The work programme needed to be updated at each meeting to reflect the work load of the Committee.

3.2 Two of the five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government are to undertake pre-decision scrutiny of executive decisions and to feed into policy development.

3.2 If the Committee has an interest in a future decision to be made by the Executive, or policy to be implemented, it is within the Committee's remit to feed into the process.

3.3 The Forward Plan is actually the future work programme for the Executive. If a non-executive member highlighted a decision(s) which is to be taken by the Executive which they would like to be involved in, that member(s) could then provide useful background to the Committee when the report is submitted to the Executive and they are passing comment on it.

4. Policy Framework

4.1 The work carried out by the Committee helps the Council to improve in line with its priority to manage services openly efficiently and effectively.

5. Budgetary Framework

5.1 All work for the Committee has to be carried out within existing resources. Therefore, there is a limit to the time available that officers will have to assist Members, so the Committee may wish to prioritise areas of investigation.

6. **Risks**

6.1 This Committee contributes to the effective minimisation of risk by fulfilling its duties in a timely manner and scrutinising the work undertaken by the Executive.

7**. Alternative Options Considered**

7.1 The only alternative option is not to undertake this aspect of the overview and scrutiny function.

8. **Background**

8.1 There are five main roles of overview and scrutiny in local government. These being:

- Holding to account
- Performance management
- Policy review
- Policy development
- External scrutiny

8.2 The pre-decision scrutiny of Executive decisions falls within the role of 'holding to account'. To feed into the pre-decision scrutiny of Executive decisions, the Committee needs to examine the Council's Forward Plan and identify items which it would like to have an impact upon.

8.3 The Council's Forward Plan is published on a monthly basis and sets out the key decisions to be taken by the Council in the next twelve months. The Council only has a statutory duty to publish key decisions to be taken in the next four months. However, the Forward Plan was expanded to a twelve month period to give a clearer picture of how and when the Council will be making important decisions.

8.4 A key decision is a decision which has a significant impact or effect on two or more wards and/or a budgetary effect of £50,000 or more.

8.5 The Forward Plan also identifies non-key decisions to be made by the Council in the next twelve months, and the Committee, if it wishes, may also pre-scrutinise these decisions.

8.6 There may also be policies identified on the Forward Plan, either as key or non-key decisions, which the Committee could pre-scrutinise and have an impact upon how these are formulated.

8.7 The Committee should be mindful that any work it wishes to undertake would need to be undertaken without the need to change the timescales as set out within the Forward Plan.

8.8 At each meeting, the Committee will consider their work programme and make amendments where necessary, and also make comments on specific Executive items, where notice has been given by 9am on the day of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting. The Committee will also receive a report

detailing the response from the Executive, on the comments the Committee made on the Executive agenda in the previous cycle.

8.9 The Forward Plan is considered at each meeting and allows the Committee to look at future items and become involved in those Executive decisions to be taken, if members so wish.