

Divisions Affected – All

PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 JUNE 2022

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME

2022/23

Report by Director of Law And Governance

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to: -**
 1. Note the Committee's draft work programme for the municipal year 2022/23;
 2. Note that the work programme is a document that is subject to change and Members can add, subtract and defer items as necessary;
 3. Agree to undertake further engagement with portfolio holders and senior officers to continue to develop the draft work programme ahead of the next meeting of the Committee; and
 4. Agree to consider the work programme at each meeting of the Committee over the course of the municipal year alongside the Council's Forward Plan.

Executive Summary

2. Sound preparation is essential to delivering an efficient and impactful overview and scrutiny function within the resources it has at its disposal. This paper provides the Committee with an indicative draft programme for the year ahead.
3. As the Committee has been without a chair for the past month, this draft work programme has been prepared by the Committee's scrutiny officer based on the Committee's work programming session following its public meeting on 6 April 2022 and in consultation with relevant senior officers and is for the Committee to amend and develop as it wishes under the direction of its chair ahead of its next meeting, in November 2022.

Background

4. Setting a Work Programme for each of the council's scrutiny committees is an important stage in the Scrutiny process. An effective scrutiny work programme will identify the key topics that Scrutiny will consider over the coming year. A well-planned scrutiny work programme will help both Members and Officers plan their workloads as well as providing a clear picture to the public of planned Scrutiny activity.
5. Scrutiny is a Member-led function within the Council and as such it is up to the scrutiny committee itself to determine its work programme. It is vital that members of scrutiny take responsibility for both drawing up and managing their own work programme. The work programme is not approved by any body other than the Scrutiny Committee itself. The work programme is a document that is subject to change and Members can add, subtract, and defer items as necessary.
6. Senior officers have participated in the preparation of the draft work programme. However, the Chair may wish to convene a meeting with relevant Cabinet Members, the Committee and senior officers to develop it further.

Corporate Priorities

7. Putting action to address the climate emergency at the heart of the council's work; investing in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable transport network, preserving; improving access to nature and green spaces; and working with local businesses and partners and for environmental, economic and social benefit are stated ambitions within the Council's Strategic Plan agreed in February 2022.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Comments checked by: Lorna Baxter

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Legal Implications

9. The law states that a Scrutiny Committee can:
 - a. Require a council officer or councillors to attend to answer questions
 - b. Require information to be provided that is held by the council
 - c. Require responses to recommendations

Comments checked by: Anita Bradley

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Staff Implications

5. None arising from this report.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

6. None arising from this report.

Sustainability Implications

7. None arising from this report.

Risk Management

8. If Members do not have a work programme it cannot be guaranteed that the Committee will operate in a planned way and have a positive impact on the planning, provision and delivery of council services.

Consultations

9. None arising from this report.

Anita Bradley
Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex: 1 – Draft Work Programme 2022/23
2 – Cabinet Forward Plan (July to October 2022)

Background papers: None

Other Documents: None

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