



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 23rd July 2015

Report of: Policy & Improvement Officer

Subject: Work Programme 2015/16

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A proposed work programme is attached at appendix 1 for the Committee's consideration and discussion

The proposed work programme aims to focus on a small number of issues, in depth. This means that the Committee will need to prioritise which issues will be included on formal meeting agendas. In doing this, the Committee may wish to reflect on the prioritisation principles attached at appendix 2 to ensure that scrutiny activity is focussed where it can add most value.

Where an issue is not appropriate for inclusion on a meeting agenda, but there is significant interest from members, the Committee can request written briefings or presentations outside of formal scrutiny meeting time.

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Comment on the proposed work programme
 - Identify priorities for inclusion on agendas
 - Identify items for written briefings
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**Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee
Draft Work Programme 2015-16**

Last updated: 13 07 2015

Please note: the draft work programme is a live document and so is subject to change.

Topic	Notes	Date
Implications of the Budget for Housing	The purpose is for the Committee to be aware of, and understand the implications of the changes announced by the Chancellor in the July budget. A Registered Social Landlord could also be invited to the meeting to provide their perspective.	September 2015
HRA Business Plan	The purpose is for the Committee to have an input prior to a Cabinet Report scheduled for January 2016. The Committee's October meeting has been suggested by officers as the best time for Scrutiny to have a meaningful input.	October 2015
Community Safety	March 2015 meeting agreed: "consideration be given to the inclusion of a meeting in the Committee's Work Programme of a themed meeting on Police and Community Safety which would include an update on the reorganisation of local policing." It is proposed to include the Partner Resource Allocation Meeting (PRAM) as part of this wider item on Community Safety.	
Welfare Reform	March 2015 meeting requested " officers continue to present update reports to the Committee in their current form, so that Members could request further information on specific items either when they received the report or at the subsequent meeting." The Committee may also wish to consider hearing from external organisations, e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau.	
Housing+ Model and its Implementation	A formal report on the implementation of Housing+ is proposed, following which a Committee visit would be arranged to see how implementation is working 'on the ground.'	
Tenant Engagement Update	To provide the Committee with the opportunity to comment on proposals on the approach to community engagement. This could also pick up on the Committee's request for an update on the Challenge for Change Community Engagement report it looked at in September 2014.	

Challenge for Change: Vacant Property Management	The Council Housing Service's scrutiny group Challenge for Change (made up of customers) are now concluding their fourth review looking at vacant property management and would like to present to the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee.	
Local Area Partnership	The Committee has previously requested a report be presented to the Committee, with the Cabinet Member and Lead Officer being invited to attend the meeting.	

Written Briefings 'For Information'

(Circulated with meeting papers, and officers do NOT attend the meeting)

Welfare Reform	- July 2013 Committee requested "a one page update on progress with Welfare Reform issues be provided to Committee Members bi-monthly" - November 2014 Committee requested "that future reports be set out to include comparative figures, so that trends could be identified."	Every meeting
Right to Buy Update	- The Committee have received a bi-monthly update on Right to Buy since November 2013. - November 2014 Committee requested "that future reports be set out in an appropriate table, which includes comparative figures, so that trends could be identified"	Every meeting

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The Committee's meeting dates are:

- 4.00pm Thursday 23rd July 2015
- 4.00pm Thursday 10th September 2015
- 4.00pm Thursday 8th October 2015
- 4.00pm Thursday 3rd December 2015
- 4.00pm Thursday 4th February 2016
- 4.00pm Thursday 7th April 2016

Selecting Scrutiny topics

This tool is designed to assist the Scrutiny Committees focus on the topics most appropriate for their scrutiny.

- **Public Interest**
The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
- **Ability to Change / Impact**
Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically have an impact on, and that will influence decision makers;
- **Performance**
Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other organisations (public or private) are not performing well;
- **Extent**
Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the city (geographical or communities of interest);
- **Replication / other approaches**
Work programmes must take account of what else is happening (or has happened) in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort. Alternatively, could another body, agency, or approach (e.g. briefing paper) more appropriately deal with the topic

Other influencing factors

- **Cross-party** - There is the potential to reach cross-party agreement on a report and recommendations.
- **Resources**. Members with the Policy & Improvement Officer can complete the work needed in a reasonable time to achieve the required outcome

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