



Report to Housing Committee

2nd February 2023

Report of: David Hollis, Interim Director of Legal and Governance

Subject: Committee Work Programme

Author of Report: Rachel Marshall, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Summary:

The Committee's Work Programme is attached at Appendix 1 for the Committee's consideration and discussion. This aims to show all known, substantive agenda items for forthcoming meetings of the Committee, to enable this committee, other committees, officers, partners and the public to plan their work with and for the Committee.

Any changes since the Committee's last meeting, including any new items, have been made in consultation with the Chair, and the document is always considered at the regular pre-meetings to which all Group Spokespersons are invited.

The following potential sources of new items are included in this report, where applicable:

- Questions and petitions from the public, including those referred from Council
- References from Council or other committees (statements formally sent for this committee's attention)
- A list of issues, each with a short summary, which have been identified by the Committee or officers as potential items but which have not yet been scheduled (See Appendix 1)

The Work Programme will remain a live document and will be brought to each Committee meeting.

Recommendations:

1. That the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including any additions and amendments identified in Part 1;
2. That consideration be given to the further additions or adjustments to the work programme presented at Part 2 of Appendix 1;
3. That Members give consideration to any further issues to be explored by officers for inclusion in Part 2 of Appendix 1 of the next work programme report, for potential addition to the work programme;

Background Papers: None

Category of Report: Open

COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

1.0 Prioritisation

1.1 For practical reasons this committee has a limited amount of time each year in which to conduct its formal business. The Committee will need to prioritise firmly in order that formal meetings are used primarily for business requiring formal decisions, or which for other reasons it is felt must be conducted in a formal setting.

1.2 In order to ensure that prioritisation is effectively done, on the basis of evidence and informed advice, Members should usually avoid adding items to the work programme which do not already appear:

- In the draft work programme in Appendix 1 due to the discretion of the chair; or
- within the body of this report accompanied by a suitable amount of information

2.0 References from Council or other Committees

2.1 Any references sent to this Committee by Council, including any public questions, petitions and motions, or other committees since the last meeting are listed here, with commentary and a proposed course of action, as appropriate:

Issue 1	No more excuses on Housing repairs
Referred from	Council 14/12/22
Details	Minute Extract: 2.(i) request that the Housing Policy Committee considers whether to add to its work programme consideration of new approaches to handling disrepair issues, such as:- (1) appropriate officers providing the Housing Policy Committee with a broad appraisal of council housing disrepair and a strategy for

	<p>improvement, including how they will implement the recommendations of the Housing Ombudsman’s 2021 report “Spotlight on Damp and Mould”;</p> <p>(2) creating an Alternative Disrepair Resolution Scheme, to give tenants an alternative to no-win, no-fee solicitors when seeking compensation for housing disrepair, as has been implemented by several other local authorities, including Lambeth and Southwark;</p> <p>(3) giving our tenants the right to directly employ an approved contactor if repairs are not carried out within an agreed time frame;</p> <p>(4) an external review of Housing Repairs as part of the wider Housing Service review taking place next year, with the goal of fundamentally re-organising how the service is delivered, believing that the Council must do better in learning from other cities who are dealing with comparable problems, and ensure that best practice is being adopted throughout all housing services, including repairs; and</p> <p>(5) adopting Selective Licensing schemes throughout the city, noting that issues in private sector housing have a considerable impact on social housing with badly maintained neighbourhoods leading to even greater pressure on council housing repairs, and believing that the city’s neighbourhoods are being let down by rogue private landlords; and</p> <p>affirms that the Council must ultimately provide a service which is geared around the needs of tenants and delivers for all of the city’s neighbourhoods.</p>
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<i>Commentary/ Action Proposed</i>	<p>(1) A report was provided to the December meeting of the Housing Policy Committee outlining the initial response to the recent issues surrounding Damp and Mould. An officer Task Group has been established to deal with this issue and an update will be provided to this Committee on progress in tackling these issues at a future meeting. A copy of the response to government due 27th January will also be provided to this Committee in February.</p> <p>(1 - 3) A report on dealing with disrepair and the Council's performance on managing casework has been added to the Forward Agenda (Meeting 8) for discussion by the Committee.</p> <p>(4) An update on the Repairs and Maintenance service performance has been added to the March agenda for this Committee</p> <p>(5) A report on Private Sector Housing enforcement and regulation performance has been added to the March agenda for this Committee to receive an update and discuss the issues highlighted.</p>
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3.0 Member engagement, learning and policy development outside of Committee

3.1 Subject to the capacity and availability of councillors and officers, there are a range of ways in which Members can explore subjects, monitor information and develop their ideas about forthcoming decisions outside of formal meetings. Appendix 2 is an example 'menu' of some of the ways this could be done. It is entirely appropriate that member development, exploration and policy development should in many cases take place in a private setting, to allow members to learn and formulate a position in a neutral space before bringing the issue into the public domain at a formal meeting.

2.2 Training & Skills Development - Induction programme for this committee.

Title	Description & Format	Date

Appendix 1 – Work Programme

Part 1: Proposed additions and amendments to the work programme since the last meeting:

Item	Proposed Date	Note
NEW: Procurement of Hotel/B&B accommodation	2 February 2023	Added to February meeting
NEW: Response to government on damp and mould in social housing	2 February 2023	Added to February meeting
NEW: Modifying Private Rented Solutions Policy	10 March 2023	Added to March meeting
Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy- Action Plan	10 March 2023	Removed from February meeting and added to March meeting
Housing Strategy	10 March 2023	Removed from March meeting and added to meeting 2 2023
NEW: Improving the Council Housing Repairs Service	10 March 2023	Added to March meeting following Council referral 14th December 2022
NEW: Private Sector Housing enforcement and regulation performance update	10 March 2023	Added to March meeting following Council referral 14th December 2022
NEW: Approach to council housing disrepair	Meeting 2 2023	Added to Meeting 8 following Council referral 14 th December 2022
NEW: HNS and Repairs Performance Report	Meeting 1 & 2 2023	Performance reporting increased from bi-annual to quarterly. May need to be adjusted once dates for meetings finalised
REMOVED: Gleadless Valley Delivery Plan	N/A	Removed from non-allocation table
NEW: First Homes Policy	Meeting 1 2023	Added to Meeting 1 2023

Part 2: List of other potential items not yet included in the work programme

Issues that have recently been identified by the Committee, its Chair or officers as potential items but have not yet been added to the proposed work programme. If a Councillor raises an idea in a meeting and the committee agrees under recommendation 3 that this should be explored, it will appear either in the work programme or in this section of the report at the committee’s next meeting, at the discretion of the Chair.

Topic

Description	
Lead Officer/s	
Item suggested by	<i>Officer, Member, Committee, partners, public question, petition etc</i>
Type of item	<i>Referral to decision-maker/Pre-decision (policy development/Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)</i>
Prior member engagement/ development required <i>(with reference to options in Appendix 2)</i>	
Public Participation/ Engagement approach <i>(with reference to toolkit in Appendix 3)</i>	
Lead Officer Commentary/Proposed Action(s)	

Part 3: Agenda Items for Forthcoming Meetings

Meeting 5	2 February 2023	Time				
Topic	Description	Lead Officer/s	Type of item	<i>(re: decisions)</i> Prior member engagement/ development required <i>(with reference to options in Appendix 2)</i>	<i>(re: decisions)</i> Public Participation/ Engagement approach <i>(with reference to toolkit in Appendix 3)</i>	Final decision-maker (& date)
Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 23/24	Approval of the detailed actions within the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan budget approved by Full Council	Janet Sharpe	Decision	Yes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Cttee Another Cttee (eg S&R) Full Council Officer

Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Fees	Approval of annual charges for Gypsy and Traveller Pitch Fees	Jonathan South	Decision	Yes		This Committee
NEW: Procurement of Hotel/B&B accommodation	Approval of procurement exercise to secure hotel beds for the next two years	Suzanne Allen	Decision	Yes		This Committee
Response to Government on damp and mould in social housing	<i>Update on the response to government about situation with damp and mould in social housing</i>	Dean Butterworth	Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	No		N/A
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Questions/ Petitions</i> • <i>Work Programme</i> • <i>[any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring]</i> 					
Revenue Finance Monitoring Report	Approval of Revenue Finance Monitoring Report	Tony Kirkham	Post-decision	N/A		N/A
Capital Finance Monitoring Report	Approval of Capital Finance Monitoring Report	Janet Sharpe	Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	N/A		N/A

Meeting 6	10 March 2023	Time				
Topic	Description	Lead Officer/s	Type of item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision Referral to decision-maker Pre-decision (policy development) Post-decision (service performance/monitoring) 	(re: decisions) Prior member engagement/development required (with reference to options in Appendix 2)	(re: decisions) Public Participation/Engagement approach (with reference to toolkit in Appendix 3)	Final decision-maker (& date) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Cttee Another Cttee (eg S&R) Full Council Officer
NEW: Improving the Council Housing Repairs Service	Update on plans to improve the delivery of Council Housing repair services to tenants	Tom Smith	Post-decision (service performance/monitoring)	Yes		This Committee (referred from Full Council)
NEW: HNS and Repairs Performance Report	Bi-annual overview of HNS and Repairs Service performance (including Capital Programme and Stock Increase Programme updates)	Janet Sharpe	Post-decision (service performance/monitoring)	N/A		This Committee
NEW: Modifying Private Rented Solutions Policy	Approval of proposed Private Rented Solutions Policy amendments	Suzanne Allen	Decision	Yes		This Committee
Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy- Action Plan	An action plan is required to detail how the priorities within the Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy will be delivered.	Suzanne Allen	Decision	Knowledge Briefings 17th November 2022, 01st December 2022 Full Strategy to Committee 15th December 2022	Public participation and engagement detailed in full strategy	This Committee

NEW: Private Sector Housing enforcement and regulation performance update	A report providing the Committee with a performance update on activity private sector housing enforcement and selective licensing	Darryl Smedley	Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	Yes	TBC	This Committee (referred from Full Council)
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Questions/ Petitions</i> • <i>Work Programme</i> • <i>[any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring]</i> 					
Revenue Finance Monitoring Report	Approval of Revenue Finance Monitoring Report	Tony Kirkham	N/A		N/A	N/A
Capital Finance Monitoring Report	Approval of Capital Finance Monitoring Report	Janet Sharpe	Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	N/A		N/A

Meeting 1 2023	TBC	Time				
Topic	Description	Lead Officer/s	Type of item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Decision</i> • <i>Referral to decision-maker</i> • <i>Pre-decision (policy development)</i> 	<i>(re: decisions)</i> Prior member engagement/ development required	<i>(re: decisions)</i> Public Participation/ Engagement approach	Final decision-maker (& date) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Cttee • Another Cttee (eg S&R) • Full Council • Officer

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)</i> 	<i>(with reference to options in Appendix 2)</i>	<i>(with reference to toolkit in Appendix 3)</i>	
NEW: HNS and Repairs Performance Report	Quarterly overview of HNS and Repairs Service performance (including Capital Programme and Stock Increase Programme updates)	Janet Sharpe	Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	N/A		This Committee
First Homes Policy	Approval of First Homes Policy	Suzanne Allen	Decision			This Committee
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Questions/ Petitions</i> • <i>Work Programme</i> • <i>[any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring]</i> 					
Revenue Finance Monitoring Report	Approval of Revenue Finance Monitoring Report	Tony Kirkham	N/A		N/A	N/A
Capital Finance Monitoring Report	Approval of Capital Finance Monitoring Report	Janet Sharpe	Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	N/A		N/A

Meeting 2 2023	TBC	Time				
Topic	Description	Lead Officer/s	Type of item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Decision</i> • <i>Referral to decision-maker</i> 	<i>(re: decisions)</i> Prior member engagement/	<i>(re: decisions)</i> Public Participation/	Final decision-maker (& date) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Cttee

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Pre-decision (policy development)</i> • <i>Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)</i> 	development required <i>(with reference to options in Appendix 2)</i>	Engagement approach <i>(with reference to toolkit in Appendix 3)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another Cttee (eg S&R) • Full Council • Officer
Housing Strategy	Approve final Housing Strategy	Suzanne Allen	Referral to decision maker	Yes		This Committee and Full Council
NEW: HNS and Repairs Performance Report	Quarterly overview of HNS and Repairs Service performance (including Capital Programme and Stock Increase Programme updates)	Janet Sharpe	Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	N/A		This Committee
NEW: Approach to council housing disrepair	appraisal of council housing disrepair and a strategy for improvement, including how they will implement the recommendations of the Housing Ombudsman's 2021 report "Spotlight on Damp and Mould";	Dean Butterworth	Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	Yes		This Committee (referred from Full Council)
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Questions/ Petitions</i> • <i>Work Programme</i> • <i>[any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring]</i> 					
Revenue Finance Monitoring Report	Approval of Revenue Finance Monitoring Report	Tony Kirkham	N/A		N/A	N/A

Capital Finance Monitoring Report	Approval of Capital Finance Monitoring Report	Janet Sharpe	Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	N/A		N/A
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Items which the committee have agreed to add to an agenda, but for which no date is yet set.						
Topic	Description	Lead Officer/s	Type of item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision Referral to decision-maker Pre-decision (policy development) Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring) 	(re: decisions) Prior member engagement/ development required <i>(with reference to options in Appendix 2)</i>	(re: decisions) Public Participation/ Engagement approach <i>(with reference to toolkit in Appendix 3)</i>	Final decision-maker (& date) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Cttee Another Cttee (eg S&R) Full Council Officer
Charged Gardening Scheme	Consideration of a charged gardening scheme for council tenants	Helen Scott	Policy and Implementation	Yes		This Committee
Service Charges and Consultation arrangements	Consideration of the possible introduction of service charges for council tenants	Darryl Smedley	Pre-decision (policy development) – to commence formal consultation.	Yes		This Committee
Net-Zero Roadmap - for existing public and private homes	Approval of plans for achieving Net Zero across SCC homes - Stage 1	Nathan Robinson	Decision	Yes		This Committee

Consultation on amendments to the Allocations Policy	Approval of proposed Allocation Policy amendments	David Wilkinson	Re-decisions (Policy development)	Yes		This Committee
Older Persons Independent Housing Living Strategy	5-year strategy setting out Sheffield's strategic approaches for helping our growing older population to live independently in their own homes across all housing tenures.	Suzanne Allen	Decision	Yes; written briefings, all member briefings	Creative use of online engagement channels; working with VCF networks; stakeholder reference groups; formal and informal discussion groups	This Committee
Gypsy and Traveller New Pitch and Sites Plan						
Housing-related Support Review						

Appendix 2 – Menu of options for member engagement, learning and development prior to formal Committee consideration

Members should give early consideration to the degree of pre-work needed before an item appears on a formal agenda.

All agenda items will anyway be supported by the following:

- Discussion well in advance as part of the work programme item at Pre-agenda meetings. These take place in advance of each formal meeting, before the agenda is published and they consider the full work programme, not just the immediate forthcoming meeting. They include the Chair, Vice Chair and all Group Spokespersons from the committee, with officers
- Discussion and, where required, briefing by officers at pre-committee meetings in advance of each formal meeting, after the agenda is published. These include the Chair, Vice Chair and all Group Spokespersons from the committee, with officers.
- Work Programming items on each formal agenda, as part of an annual and ongoing work programming exercise
- Full officer report on a public agenda, with time for a public discussion in committee
- Officer meetings with Chair & VC as representatives of the committee, to consider addition to the draft work programme, and later to inform the overall development of the issue and report, for the committee's consideration.

The following are examples of some of the optional ways in which the committee may wish to ensure that they are sufficiently engaged and informed prior to taking a public decision on a matter. In all cases the presumption is that these will take place in private, however some meetings could happen in public or eg be reported to the public committee at a later date.

These options are presented in approximately ascending order of the amount of resources needed to deliver them. Members must prioritise carefully, in consultation with officers, which items require what degree of involvement and information in advance of committee meetings, in order that this can be delivered within the officer capacity available.

The majority of items cannot be subject to the more involved options on this list, for reasons of officer capacity.

- Written briefing for the committee or all members (email)
- All-member newsletter (email)
- Requests for information from specific outside bodies etc.
- All-committee briefings (private or, in exceptional cases, in-committee)
- All-member briefing (virtual meeting)
- Facilitated policy development workshop (potential to invite external experts / public, see appendix 2)
- Site visits (including to services of the council)
- Task and Finish group (one at a time, one per cttee)

Furthermore, a range of public participation and engagement options are available to inform Councillors, see appendix 3.

Appendix 3 – Public engagement and participation toolkit

Public Engagement Toolkit

On 23 March 2022 Full Council agreed the following:

A toolkit to be developed for each committee to use when considering its 'menu of options' for ensuring the voice of the public has been central to their policy development work. Building on the developing advice from communities and Involve, committees should make sure they have a clear purpose for engagement; actively support diverse communities to engage; match methods to the audience and use a range of methods; build on what's worked and existing intelligence (SCC and elsewhere); and be very clear to participants on the impact that engagement will have.

The list below builds on the experiences of Scrutiny Committees and latterly the Transitional Committees and will continue to develop. The toolkit includes (but is not be limited to):

- a. Public calls for evidence
- b. Issue-focused workshops with attendees from multiple backgrounds (sometimes known as 'hackathons') led by committees
- c. Creative use of online engagement channels
- d. Working with VCF networks (eg including the Sheffield Equality Partnership) to seek views of communities
- e. Co-design events on specific challenges or to support policy development
- f. Citizens assembly style activities
- g. Stakeholder reference groups (standing or one-off)
- h. Committee / small group visits to services
- i. Formal and informal discussion groups
- j. Facilitated communities of interest around each committee (eg a mailing list of self-identified stakeholders and interested parties with regular information about forthcoming decisions and requests for contributions or volunteers for temporary co-option)
- k. Facility for medium-term or issue-by-issue co-option from outside the Council onto Committees or Task and Finish Groups. Co-optees of this sort at Policy Committees would be non-voting.

This public engagement toolkit is intended to be a quick 'how-to' guide for Members and officers to use when undertaking participatory activity through committees.

It will provide an overview of the options available, including the above list, and cover:

- How to focus on purpose and who we are trying to reach
- When to use and when not to use different methods
- How to plan well and be clear to citizens what impact their voice will have
- How to manage costs, timescales, scale.

There is an expectation that Members and Officers will be giving strong consideration to the public participation and engagement options for each item on a committee's work programme, with reference to the above list a-k.