



Report to Finance Committee

16 October 2023

Report of: Director of Policy and Democratic Engagement

Subject: Committee Work Programme

Author of Report: Rachel Appleyard, 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 covering report, where applicable:

- Questions from the public (where notified sufficiently in advance)
- Petitions to this committee, 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 (the source of the items is specified)

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 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; and
3. That any referrals from Council (petition and resolutions) detailed in Section 2 of the report be noted and the proposed responses set out be agreed.

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	
Referred from	
<i>Details</i>	
Commentary/ Action Proposed	

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
Future High Streets Fund / Heart of the City	Site visit	4 th July 2023
Future High Streets Fund	Briefing tour	26 th October 2023

Appendix 1 – Work Programme

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

New Items	Proposed Date	Note
Amended Items	Proposed Date	Note

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 (23/24)	16 October 2023	2pm				
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) 	<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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This Cttee •Another Cttee (eg S&R) •Full Council •Officer
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Questions/ Petitions</i> • <i>Any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring]</i> 					
Capital Approvals Month 5 (2023/24)		Philip Gregory / Damian Watkinson	Decision			This Cttee
Annual review of Sheffield’s Council Tax Reduction Scheme	The Council is required, on an annual basis, to review its Council Tax Reduction Scheme.	Tim Hardie / Jon West / John Squire	Decision	Members were briefed at the Finance Briefing on 11.07.23 where it was agreed that a report should be prepared for consideration by the Finance Committee on 16.10.23. A draft report will be		This Cttee

				presented at the pre-agenda meeting on 19.09.23 with a further opportunity for scrutiny at the pre-meet on 11.10.23.		
Corporate Debt Policy	<p>The review and approval of the Council's Corporate Debt Policy, which aims to maximise income collection and minimise levels of debt in the most fair, efficient and cost-effective way, whilst providing support for our most vulnerable customers.</p> <p>Response to Council Motion (14/12/22) Moving Towards an Ethical Debt Collection: Policy and Ending the Use of Bailiffs Sheffield City Council - Agenda for Council on Wednesday 14 December 2022, 3.00 pm</p>	Tim Hardie / Jon West / John Squire	Decision / Strategy/Policy Development	Members will be briefed at the Finance Briefing on 15.08.23 with the intention of preparing a report for consideration by the Finance Committee on 16.10.23. A draft report will be presented at the pre-agenda meeting on 19.09.23 with a further opportunity for scrutiny at the pre-meet on 11.10.23.	Public engagement should be covered under the wider activity already underway in relation to the Council's Cost of Living Crisis response, of which this is one aspect.	This Cttee
Commission of a Debt Recovery Framework	A commissioning decision is required in advance of the expiry of the current Debt Recovery Framework under which suppliers undertake	Tim Hardie / Jon West / John Squire	Decision	TBA		This Cttee

	debt recovery activity on behalf of the Council.					
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Meeting 6 (23/24)	6 November 2023	2pm				
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) 	<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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This Cttee •Another Cttee (eg S&R) •Full Council •Officer
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Questions/ Petitions</i> • <i>Any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring]</i> 					
Capital Approvals Month 6 (2023/24)		Philip Gregory / Damian Watkinson	Decision			This Cttee

Meeting 7 (23/24)	18 December 2023	2pm				
Topic	Description	Lead Officer/s	Type of item <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Decision •Referral to decision-maker •Pre-decision (policy development) 	<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

			•Post-decision (service performance/ monitoring)	(with reference to options in Appendix 2)	(with reference to toolkit in Appendix 3)	
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Questions/ Petitions • Any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring] 					
2023/24 Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring		Philip Gregory / Jane Wilby	Decision			This Cttee
Capital Approvals Month 7 (2023/24)		Philip Gregory / Damian Watkinson	Decision			This Cttee

Meeting 8 (23/24)	23 January 2024	2pm				
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) 	<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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This Cttee •Another Cttee (eg S&R) •Full Council •Officer
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Questions/ Petitions • Any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring] 					

Capital Approvals Month 8 (2023/24)		Philip Gregory / Damian Watkinson	Decision			This Cttee
Parkwood Springs	Decision on redevelopment of the former ski village	Tammy Whitaker/ Alan Seasman	Decision	Written briefing	TBC	This Cttee

Meeting 9 (23/24)	19 February 2024	2pm				
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) 	<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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •This Cttee •Another Cttee (eg S&R) •Full Council •Officer
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Questions/ Petitions</i> • <i>Any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring]</i> 					
Capital Approvals Month 9 (2023/24)		Philip Gregory / Damian Watkinson	Decision			This Cttee

Meeting 10 (23/24)	18 March 2024	2pm				
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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
Standing items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Questions/ Petitions</i> • <i>Any other committee-specific standing items eg finance or service monitoring]</i> 					
2023/24 Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring		Philip Gregory / Jane Wilby	Decision			This Cttee
Capital Approvals Month 10 (2023/24)		Philip Gregory / Damian Watkinson	Decision			This Cttee

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

Levelling Up Prospectus	Prospectus setting out Sheffield's Levelling Up ambitions	Kate Martin	Decision or pre decision policy development			This Cttee

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.

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