

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 MARCH 2015

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF LAW AND DEMOCRACY

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME – SELECTION OF IN DEPTH SCRUTINY REVIEWS

SUMMARY

The report presents proposals for the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2015/16. The new Committee structure will be in operation and topics will need to be allocated taking into account the reduced capacity available. It is also a shorter, ten month municipal year due to the election period.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Executive Scrutiny Committee consider the priorities for review and allocate topics to Select Committees pending review following the forthcoming local elections.

WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

1. The current programme (including in-year referrals) is summarised below:

Select Committee	Review	Reporting to Cabinet
Art, Leisure and Culture	The effects of art, leisure and culture on wellbeing	March 2015
Adult Services and Health	Home Care Barriers to take up of public services by people with Learning Disabilities	March 2015 TBC – to be carried over
Children and Young People	Safer Place for Children School Organisation - Phase 1 Transition from Primary to Secondary Child Sexual Exploitation (Task and Finish)	September 2014 March 2015 March 2015 March 2015
Environment	Tree Preservation Orders Country Park Maintenance	September 2014 March 2015
Housing and Community Safety	Neighbourhood Policing Welfare Reform	March 2015 Ongoing monitoring
Corporate and Social Inclusion	Licensing and Public Health	March 2015

Regeneration and Transport	Future of Durham Tees Valley Airport	October 2014
	Improving the standard of roads and footpaths	March 2015
	Boundary Signs	TBC - During 2015-16

OUTSTANDING/CARRIED FORWARD TOPICS FROM THE CURRENT YEAR

2. The 2014-15 programme included a review of the 'Barriers to take up of services by people with learning disabilities/difficulties', scheduled for Adult Services and Health Select Committee. A further suggestion has been made this year to look at this issue, and also refers to barriers to employment. During 2014-15 a specific suggestion in relation to the take-up of health checks by people with learning disabilities was put forward and these topics could be considered together.
3. Executive Scrutiny Committee has considered a referral to examine Boundary Road Signs. This will be considered by Regeneration and Transport in March but will need to be carried over into 2015-16 in order for the review to take account of the publication of Government guidance before completion. In October Council resolved that the issue of River Tees Crossing Infrastructure be considered by Regeneration and Transport Select Committee and this will need to take place in 2015-16.
4. The Housing Select Committee has continued to monitor the impact of Welfare Reform on the Borough and has requested that this continues in future years.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR 2014/15

PICK System

5. Every effort has been taken to focus attention on suitable priority topics with proposals considered and justified on the basis of public interest, impact, performance and efficiency issues and context. This PICK system approach allows a score to be given to each suggestion to help with prioritisation of topics. It should be stressed that the score is a tool to aid prioritisation and is not binding in any way.
6. All of the appropriate suggestions received are summarised in the schedule set out in **Appendix 1** and given a PICK score.
7. Scrutiny Liaison Forum discussed the priorities for scrutiny reviews for 2015/16 and agreed that the draft programme (**Appendix 2**) be revised to incorporate a review of School Parking (this could be undertaken by either the Crime and Disorder or the Place Committee). The Forum also felt that both the reviews of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome and Pupil Premium should be undertaken by the People Committee recognising that the Pupil Premium review would be a short and focused piece of work. **Appendix 2** has been revised to incorporate these additions and sets out how reviews could potentially be allocated to Select Committees.
8. There will be a revised committee structure in place during 2015-16 and less capacity in terms of the number of committees. It is also a shorter, ten month municipal year due to the election period.
9. In order to make the most of available capacity, and also enable some of the less-public facing issues to be considered appropriately, it is suggested for some of the corporate issues these could be reviewed by Executive Scrutiny Committee, or by officers reporting into Executive Scrutiny for independent Member challenge.

10. Each suggestion is cross referenced with supporting information, and all suggestions received (apart from those already identified/carried over) are outlined at **Appendix 3**. (An explanation of the PICK scoring method is attached at **Appendix 4**.)

OTHER SCRUTINY WORK

Overview and Monitoring

11. To ensure that the scrutiny process continues to add value through additional opportunities for challenge, annual overview meetings provide Members with an overview of all the services reporting to the various Select Committees and to question Cabinet Members and Senior Officers on their performance. In addition, Select Committees continue to receive progress reports in respect of the reviews which have concluded.
12. Progress Reports highlight the outcomes of previous reviews. For example, the Quality & Sufficiency of Childcare review recommended that information regarding whether providers are engaging with SBC's Journey to Outstanding, which aims to support providers in improving their Ofsted rating and thereby raising standards in child care for the borough, be available to parents when choosing childcare. Figures prove that Journey to Outstanding is making a real difference, with 76% of child minders receiving Good or better Ofsted grades, and 90% of settings receiving Good or better ratings, and these figures are improving month by month.

Quality and Safety

13. In response to high profile cases in the media relating to the quality and safety of health and social care services and the increased expectation on Councils to put in place internal mechanisms to undertake rigorous review and challenge, Children and Young People Select Committee receives quarterly performance reports in respect of children's services. This includes a selection of performance indicators linked to priorities in the Council Plan, along with some commentary on other performance issues.
14. Adult Services and Health Select Committee receives an improved range of performance updates to ensure Members maintain an oversight of the key quality and performance issues affecting local health and adult care services. Reports include six-monthly updates on Adult Care performance, annual Adult Safeguarding Review and Local Account, and the scores from the Care Homes Quality Standards Framework. NHS Quality Accounts enable both performance monitoring, and the Committee to have an input into the quality priorities of the local acute and community health services.
15. This work and outcomes to date will be reviewed with the Corporate Director for CESC for the forthcoming year, and greater consideration will need to be given to Public Health performance reporting on a more regular basis.

Health

16. Adult Services and Health Select Committee continues to be responsible for receiving statutory and non-statutory health consultations and briefings. It is therefore important to build in a degree of capacity within the programme to deal with other emerging issues. In March and June/July, the Committee will be considering proposals related to the CCG's Urgent Care Strategy.
17. The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee continues to meet to scrutinise issues and NHS services which are provided across the Tees Valley sub region. Local Directors of Public Health will be invited to provide suggestions for the

forthcoming year. The Committee has reviewed its protocols and now holds meetings with fuller agendas on a quarterly basis.

18. The Tees Valley Health Committee has this year covered: Any Qualified Provider (following referral from Stockton), monitoring of ambulance service performance, Haematology services at NTH NHS Trust, Winter Planning and Management across the Tees Valley (including immunisation programmes), Securing Quality in Health Services (SeQHIS), and Baysdale Short Break for Children with Complex Needs Review. The Joint Committee considered the Tees Suicide Prevention Strategy following the Middlesbrough Panel's work on suicide and recommended that each local authority consider its own approach (a suggestion in the attached appendix relates).
19. Regional Health Committee is increasingly working with NHS England and the Northern Clinical Senate to receive an overview of the direction of travel for acute services in the region. The Committee has also been updated on the early stages of the new national Child and Adult Congenital Heart Services review, and monitors Ambulance Performance at the regional level.

Crime and Disorder

20. Housing and Community Safety Select Committee has been the designated statutory scrutiny committee to cover crime and disorder issues as required (including an annual update on crime and disorder as a minimum), and this function in future will be carried out by the Crime and Disorder Committee. In addition, scrutiny work is carried out by the Police and Crime Panel.

Police and Crime Panel

21. The Police and Crime Panel has undertaken several task and finish reviews in supporting and reviewing the Police and Crime Commissioner's work. This work is supported from the Council's Scrutiny Team. In 2014-15, these are:
 - Budget Strategy
 - Work in Schools
 - Probation Services
 - Commissioner Priorities
22. This work was reported into Panel in February in order to give assurances to the full Panel on the work to develop the Budget and achieve savings plans, to inform the discussion on the PCC's Council Tax precept. The Commissioner Priorities review made recommendations around how these are communicated to partners and public. Work in Schools has prompted the PCC to review school interventions and further work is due to take place with the Show Racism the Red Card programme and local authorities to pilot hate crime awareness sessions.
23. Outstanding topics include a review of Shared Services, and Victims' Services.

Combined Authority

24. The development of the proposed Tees Valley Combined Authority may see it in operation during 2015-16. The scrutiny element will be provided by a Joint Committee supported on a rotational basis by each local authority and so this may have an impact on capacity within scrutiny at Stockton and will need to be considered in due course.

NEXT STEPS

25. Following the May elections it is proposed that Executive Scrutiny Committee review the draft programme.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

26. There will be staffing implications in order to provide the necessary support for reviews.

RISK ASSESSMENT

27. The selection of appropriate topics for review can help to support service improvement; the selection of inappropriate topics will lead to the waste of officer and Member time and resources.

Director of Law and Democracy

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<u>Background Papers:</u>	None
<u>Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:</u>	Not Ward Specific
<u>Property Implications:</u>	None

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

Ref Number	Suggested Topic	Public Interest	Impact	Council Efficiency & Performance	Keep in Context	Total	Comments
1A / 1B	Barriers to public services/employment for people with learning disabilities	Already on work programme					Carried over from 14-15 / Additional topic suggestion made for 15-16
2	Take up of Health Checks for people with LD	Already on work programme					This should be combined with the above review
	School Organisation – phase 2	Already on work programme					
	Boundary Signs	Already on work programme					
	River Tees Crossing Infrastructure	Already on work programme					
13	Kerbside Waste Collection	3	3	2	2	10	
21	Mental Health and Wellbeing	2	2	2	3	9	This could be combined with Suicide/Self Harm
10	Stockton LSCB	3	2	1	3	9	
15	Suicide and Self Harm	2	2	2	2	8	This could be combined with Mental H & W
8	CAMHS	2	2	1	3	8	This should be considered on a Tees or Tees Valley wide basis
12	Choice Based Lettings	2	2	1	3	7	If chosen, would need to take place early in the programme to feed into Tees Valley discussions
3	Freedom of Information	1	0	2	3	6	This could be reported into Executive Scrutiny Committee
4	Pupil Premium	2	2	1	1	6	This could be considered as a themed performance report at CYP Committee
20	Consultation	2	1	1	2	6	The planned review could be reported into Executive Scrutiny for Member review
17	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	2	2	1	1	6	
5	Disabled people's access to shops	3	1	0	2	6	This could be referred to Disability Advisory Group to report back and identify any issues
19	Early Help	2	2	1	1	6	This could be considered later in the programme or next year
9	GP / A and E services	3	1	2	0	6	This has been recently considered and continues to be monitored
18	Youth Engagement	1	2	2	1	6	Other review work is planned around this
11	Street Cleaning	3	2	0	1	6	
14	Events	2	2	0	1	5	
6	School Parking	2	1	1	1	5	

7	Debt Write Offs	1	1	1	2	5	This could be reported into Executive Scrutiny Committee
16	DNA Testing / Dog Fouling	2	1	0	0	3	This could be considered as a one-meeting review by Crime and Disorder Committee

Appendix 2

Potential 2015/16 Work Programme

Select Committee	Potential Topics
Adult Services and Health	Barriers to take up of public services for people with learning disabilities (including health checks) Mental Health and Wellbeing (including Suicide and Self Harm)
Children and Young People	School Organisation Plan – Phase 2 Stockton LSCB
Crime and Disorder	River Tees Crossing Infrastructure DNA Testing / Dog Fouling School Parking?
People	Choice Based Lettings (will need to be completed and fed into Tees Valley wide discussion) Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Pupil Premium Welfare Reform – Ongoing Monitoring
Place	Boundary Signs Kerbside Waste Collection School Parking?

Reviews that could be reviewed by Executive Scrutiny Committee, or by officers reporting into Executive Scrutiny/appropriate committee for independent Member challenge.	Freedom of Information, Consultation, Debt Write Off
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Referral to Tees Valley Health Committee	CAMHS
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