

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

8 MARCH 2016

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME – SELECTION OF IN DEPTH SCRUTINY REVIEWS

SUMMARY

The report presents proposals for the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2016/17.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To review the suggested topics and identify the priorities for scrutiny during 2016/17, and agree the scrutiny work programme for 2016-17.

WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

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

Select Committee	Review	Reporting to Cabinet
Adult Services and Health	Access to services for people with learning difficulties and /or autism	April 2016
	Mental Health and Wellbeing (including suicide and self-harm)	Carry Forward
Children and Young People	School Organisation and Admission Arrangements - Phase 2	March 2016
	SLSCB	Carrying forward to January 2017
Crime and Disorder	River Tees Crossing Infrastructure	December 2015
	School Parking	May 2016
	DNA/ Dogs Fouling	Carry Forward
People	Choice Based Lettings	October 2015
	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder	May 2016
	Pupil Premium	Carry Forward
Place	Boundary Signs	March 2016
	Kerbside Waste Collection	April 2016
Executive Scrutiny Committee	Debt Write Off	May 2016
	Freedom of Information Requests	February 2016

	Consultation	March 2016
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OUTSTANDING/CARRIED FORWARD TOPICS FROM THE CURRENT YEAR

2. The 2015/16 programme included reviews of Mental Health and Wellbeing, DNA Testing/Dog Fouling, Pupil Premium and a review of Stockton LSCB (the later review has already commenced). The Place Select Committee is completing a review of kerbside recycling and it is expected that further work will need to be undertaken to review the outcome of necessary consultation but as part of the 2017/18 work programme. A review of Youth Services had also previously been identified for review arising from the MTFP.
4. In addition, the People Select Committee has continued to monitor the impact of Welfare Reform on the Borough. This year this has included presentations on Universal Credit ahead of its staged introduction in the Borough.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR 2016/17

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. In addition a topic was circulated at Scrutiny Liaison Forum on Adult Assessment Processes and it is proposed that this is considered as a Task and Finish Review by Adults and Health Committee (this is included in Appendix 3 as topic number 18).
7. Scrutiny Liaison Forum has reviewed the topics and priorities for 2015/16 ahead of consideration and approval by Executive Scrutiny Committee. **Appendix 2** sets out how reviews could potentially be allocated to Select Committees.
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.

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. To support the quality assurance work, a programme of Member visits to frontline services has been arranged. Members attending provide feedback to the Services and the relevant Select Committee. Members of Adult Services have visited Lanark Close, STEPS/Sporting STEPS, and Rosedale Centre to date, speaking with staff and clients where possible. Children and Young People Select Committee have visited nine frontline services during December and January and a further seven visits are planned for February and March as part of an on-going programme. The visits have been very positively received by both Councillor and staff teams.

Health

16. Adult Services and Health Select Committee continues to be responsible for receiving statutory and non-statutory health consultations / updates on service changes. It is therefore important to build in a degree of capacity within the programme to deal with other emerging issues. In 2015-16 this has included GP practice mergers, Urgent Care proposals, and assisted reproduction service.
17. The Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee continues to meet quarterly to scrutinise issues and NHS services which are provided across the Tees Valley sub region. Redcar currently hosts the Committee, and Middlesbrough will host in 2016-17. Local Directors of Public Health will be invited to provide suggestions for the forthcoming year. The Committee has in 2015-16 considered for example, the Better Health (see below), South Tees Trust CQC Inspection Report, Tees Esk and Wear Valleys Quality Account, and the local transformation plans for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.
18. A key issue for the forthcoming year will be consideration of the Better Health programme. This is a major sub-regional issue covering key hospital services (including maternity, emergency, and acute medicine and surgery) across the Durham and Tees Valley area. This will necessitate both updates to ASH Committee and statutory joint scrutiny arrangements (including County Durham) to consider the issues, with the current timescale indicating public consultation from November.
19. Regional Health Committee has this year particularly focussed on the proposed changes to neonatal services in the region, and the Learning Disability Transformation Programme North East Fast Track project (which the Committee has agreed to closely monitor on an ongoing basis) Both the Regional and Tees Valley Committees continue to closely monitor the NE Ambulance Service.

Crime and Disorder

20. Crime and Disorder Select Committee has been the designated statutory scrutiny committee to cover crime and disorder issues as legislatively required (including an

annual update on crime and disorder as a minimum. The Committee this year also examined the River Tees Crossing Infrastructure and problems associated with School Parking. 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 2015/16 the annual review of the PCC's overall budget strategy was one of a number of topics identified to be scrutinised.
22. This work was reported in February in order to give assurances to the full Panel on the work to develop the Budget and achieve savings plans in order to inform the discussion on the PCC's Council Tax precept.
23. Outstanding topics include a review of Victims' Services which now take place in 2017/18 due to a new contract only just being rewarded and Shared Services which will commence following the PCC elections in May 2016.

Combined Authority

24. The development of the proposed Tees Valley Combined Authority will see it in operation during 2016/17. Discussions are on-going as to how the scrutiny element to the Joint Committee will be supported but we currently do not have capacity within scrutiny at Stockton to support this additional work.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

26. 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.

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Background Papers: None
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: Not Ward Specific
Property Implications: None

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

Ref Number	Suggested Topic	Public Interest	Impact	Council Efficiency & Performance	Keep in Context	Total	Comments	
	Mental Health and Wellbeing (including suicide and self-harm)	Already on work programme						
	DNA Testing/ Dog Fouling							
	Pupil Premium							
	SLSCB	Already on work programme and commenced						
	Youth Services	Already added to the Work Programme as part of the MTFP						
1	Flooding/ Planning	3	3	2	3	11	Proposed to combine these topics into one review	
2	Becks, Sewers and Waterways	3	3	2	3	11		
3	DoLS	2	2	2	3	9		
4	Educational Psychology	2	2	1	3	8		
5	Children's School Readiness	2	3	1	2	8	Propose to include this topic into the review of Pupil Premium	
6	Availability/Sustainability of the Market for the Provision of Care	2	2	3	3	9	Propose that this be looked at as a Reporting In Review, linked to the development of services originating from the previous review of Home Care.	
7	Asylum Seekers	3	2	2	1	8		
8	Railway Crossing Points	3	2	2	1	8		
9	Academies	2	2	1	2	7		
10	Universal Credit	2	2	1	2	7	Propose to include this within the on-going monitoring of Welfare Reform carried out by the People Select Committee	
11	Membership of Local Government Bodies	1	1	2	3	7		
12	Locality Forums	2	1	2	1	6		
13	Western Bypass	2	2	1	1	6		
14	Food Hygiene	2	1	1	2	6		

15	Street Cleansing	2	1	0	2	6	
16	Roundabouts	2	1	1	2	6	Propose to feedback issues to service to address any safety issues within maintenance programmes
17	Grass Verges	2	1	1	2	6	

Appendix 2

Potential 2016/17 Work Programme

Select Committee	Potential Topics (In order of start date)
Adult Services and Health	DoLS Adult Care Assessment Process (Task and Finish) Availability/Sustainability of the Market for the Provision of Care (Considered as a Reporting In Update at the appropriate time)
Children and Young People	Stockton LSCB Youth Services Academies Educational Psychology ("Reporting In" Review)
Crime and Disorder	DNA Testing/ Dog Fouling Railway Crossing Points Membership of Local Government Bodies
People	Mental Health and Wellbeing (including Suicide and Self Harm) Pupil Premium/ School Readiness Welfare Reform – on-going monitoring
Place	Flooding Resilience Asylum Seekers