

## AGENDA ITEM

### REPORT TO EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

26 APRIL 2016

### REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME – UPDATE

### SUMMARY

The report presents an update following discussion on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2016/17 at the previous meeting.

### DETAIL

1. At the meeting on 8 March, the Committee considered and agreed the in-depth Select Committee policy review programme for 2016-17.
2. In line with previous years, more topics were received than could be undertaken by the available capacity of Committees, and therefore the Executive Scrutiny needed to prioritise the reviews to be undertaken within the available resources. To assist with this, topic suggestions were ranked using the PICK system and the following factors: public interest, performance, impact on the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area, and the wider context (e.g. whether other reviews were already taking place).
3. Street Cleansing and Grass Verges were two topics that had been suggested. At the meeting, Members felt that although they had not been prioritised for review, they were issues that were important to constituents and wished to explore if they could be accommodated within the current year's work programme. It was agreed to bring a further report to the next meeting.
4. Initial work has taken place to scope the agreed reviews; indicative timescales are outlined in **Appendix 1**. As outlined at the previous meeting, scrutiny committees undertake a range of activities in addition to the in-depth review programme. These are also outlined in the attached. As can be seen there is an intense workload for the Membership of the Committees and supporting officers from across the Council.
5. Following the meeting Community Services have provided a further update as follows in relation to street cleaning/highway verges: 'Care For Your Area is currently being re-structured as part of their £650K contribution to the reduction budget. A review at this time would be counterproductive due to the fluctuating situation plus imminent staff and Union consultations'.
6. In line with this advice and given the extensive work programme already agreed, it is therefore advised that an in-depth review of these issues would not be appropriate at this time.
7. However recognising Members concerns it is proposed that a meeting of the Council's Urban Environment Task Group (UETG) is held to specifically discuss grass verges and the improvement and maintenance of the Borough's public realm.

Following which a further update will be presented to Executive Scrutiny Committee in due course.

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

## Appendix 1

Select Committee	In-depth Scrutiny Review Topics (In order of start date)	Tentative Timescales	Other Work
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)	May - March  Concurrently  TBC (linked to implementation of Home Care Review)	Overview Meetings  Monitoring Implementation of Previously Agreed Recommendations  Quality Monitoring including NHS (eg. Performance Reports, Quality Accounts, Local Account)  Frontline Site Visits  NHS Updates/Service Change Proposals – Including Better Health Programme
Children and Young People	Stockton LSCB Youth Services Academies  Educational Psychology (“Reporting In” Review)	Jan 16 – Jan 17 March – October December– March 17  June – January 17	Overview Meetings  Monitoring Implementation of Previously Agreed Recommendations  Quality and Performance Monitoring (eg. Performance Reports, Ofsted Reports)  Frontline Site Visits
Crime and Disorder	DNA Testing/ Dog Fouling Railway Crossing Points Membership of Local Government Bodies	June-July Sept-Dec Jan-Feb	Overview Meetings  Monitoring Implementation of Previously Agreed Recommendations  Performance Monitoring (Crime and Disorder)
People	Pupil Premium/ School Readiness	May - September	Overview Meetings

	Mental Health and Wellbeing (including Suicide and Self Harm) Welfare Reform – on-going monitoring	July - March	Monitoring Implementation of Previously Agreed Recommendations
Place	Flooding Resilience Asylum Seekers	May-Nov Dec-Mar	Overview Meetings Monitoring Implementation of Previously Agreed Recommendations

<b>Joint Committee/External Work (impacts on Member and Officer Resources)</b>	<b>Work Programme</b>
Police and Crime Panel (SBC Lead)	Review Programme TBC – Shared Services Topic to be carried over from 15-16
Tees Valley Health Committee (Member/Officer contribution)	Programme TBC - To include as minimum monitoring of NE Ambulance Service
Regional Health Committee (Member/Officer contribution)	Full Programme TBC – To include as minimum monitoring of NE Learning Disability Transformation Programme
Better Health Joint Committee (Member/Officer contribution)	Overview of Better Health Programme and Consultation Proposals (from November)
TV Combined Authority (Member/ Officer contribution)	TBC