

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

21 FEBRUARY 2017

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18 – SELECTION OF IN DEPTH SCRUTINY
REVIEWS**

SUMMARY

The report presents proposals for the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To review the prioritised suggested topics, and confirm the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2017-18.

WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

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

Select Committee	Review	Reporting to Cabinet
Adult Services and Health	Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards	December 2016
	Adult Care Management (Reporting In Review)	-
	Sustainability of the Care Market (Reporting In Update)	-
Children and Young People	Youth Services	November 2016
	SLSCB	January 2017
	Educational Psychology (Reporting In Review)	April 2017
Crime and Disorder	School Parking	September 2016
	Dog Fouling Enforcement	January 2017
	Safety at Rail Crossings	April 2017
People	Review of Disadvantage in Early Years and School	January 2017
	Mental Health and Wellbeing/Suicide and Self Harm	TBC
Place	Flooding Resilience	January 2017
	Asylum Seekers	To be determined

OUTSTANDING/CARRIED FORWARD TOPICS FROM THE CURRENT YEAR

2. The second review on the Work Programme for People Committee in 2016/17 is the review of Mental Health and Wellbeing (including suicide and self-harm). This is scheduled to start in January but is likely to run until the summer recess as a minimum.
3. Officer-led scoping work has identified that since these two topic suggestions were suggested (in early 2015), a range of work has taken place, including development of a response to the national strategy set out in Future In Mind – Promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing. Further work is being undertaken on the scope of the review.
4. The Crime and Disorder Select Committee was due to consider the topic of Membership of Local Government Bodies as its third review but there was insufficient time to review it. The intention was to examine the overall spend on Council membership to outside bodies as well as determining value for money.
5. Place Select Committee will be revisiting the review of boundary signs as appropriate legislation is now in place to introduce signs to mark the North Yorkshire / County Durham ceremonial boundary following the introduction of the 2016 Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions and it was agreed to consult with the Committee prior to the signs being installed.

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR 2017/18

PICK System

6. The process for work programme setting was reviewed this year with even greater emphasis placed on efficiency and review outcomes focusing on reducing demand for services. In inviting topic suggestions, Members were also reminded that the scrutiny work programme should be seeking to support the Council’s policy principles. Councillors, SMT and key partners were invited to submit topic suggestions for the scrutiny work programme for 2017/18.
7. In addition, services were asked to propose possible in depth review topics as part of reports presented to Select Committee overview meetings. In inviting topic suggestions, the Chair of Executive Scrutiny Committee has stressed that it is imperative that in depth scrutiny reviews focus on topics which are in line with the Council’s policy priorities and seek to identify efficiencies and reduce demand for services.
8. 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.
9. All of the appropriate suggestions received are summarised in the schedule set out in **Appendix 1** and given a PICK score.
10. SLF is invited to identify the priorities for scrutiny reviews for 2017/18 for consideration by Executive Scrutiny Committee on 21 February. **Appendix 2** sets out how reviews could potentially be allocated to Select Committees.
11. 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

12. Recognising the overview role of the scrutiny function, annual overview meetings were established to 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 and understand the challenges and issues arising ahead of the next year's programme. The format of these meetings has been reviewed regularly and it this year's meetings were aligned to corporate performance reporting timescales. It is proposed that next year performance reporting will go to each Select Committee following consideration by Executive Scrutiny Committee. This approach will reduce duplication whilst still enabling committee's to keep abreast of performance issues. Officers will then only need to report challenges, emerging issues and suggested scrutiny topics for the following year. In addition, Select Committees continue to receive progress reports in respect of the reviews which have concluded until they have been fully implemented.

Quality and Safety

13. In response to high profile cases in the media relating to the quality and safety of health, children's and social care services and the increased expectation on Councils to put in place internal mechanisms to undertake rigorous internal review and challenge, Children and Young People Select Committee now receive regular performance reports in respect of children's services. Adult Services and Health Select Committee also receive performance reports on adult social care issues and a range of other reports and updates are provided as part of the enhanced performance management arrangements in response to the Francis Report. These include Annual Reports from the Council, Trusts and CQC, NHS Local Accounts; CQC Inspection Reports; Healthwatch Enter and View Reports etc. Member site visits to frontline services take place on a rolling programme. The recent Ofsted Inspection recognised the work of Children and Young People Select Committee and, in particular, the extensive work to scrutinise frontline practice.

Health

14. 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 2016/17 this has included Urgent Care proposals, and assisted reproduction service.
15. A continuing key issue for the forthcoming year will be consideration of the Better Health Programme, which is looking at the reconfiguration of acute services affecting the Durham/Tees Valley/North Yorkshire area. The statutory Joint Committee is now well established and continues to meet to review the development of proposals, ahead of the public consultation period. Updates continue to be provided to ASH Committee, and the consultation period will necessitate support to the Joint Committee/Stockton representatives with the current timescale indicating public consultation from June/July, following the local government and mayoral elections.
16. Regional Health Committee has this year so far particularly focussed on monitoring proposed regional service changes via NHS England, and oversight of the two regional Sustainability and Transformation Plans. Both the Regional and Tees Valley Committees continue to closely monitor the NE Ambulance Service (NEAS). This included considering the NEAS CQC inspection report.
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. Local Directors of Public Health will be invited to provide suggestions for the forthcoming year.

Crime and Disorder

18. 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 problems associated with School Parking, dog fouling enforcement, and safety at rail level crossings. In addition, scrutiny work is carried out by the Police and Crime Panel.

Police and Crime Panel

19. 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 2016/17 the annual review of the PCC's overall budget strategy was one of a number of topics identified to be scrutinised.
20. 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.
21. Outstanding topics include a review of Shared Services and problems associated with off-road motor biking. A review of Victims' Services was deferred to 2017/18 due to a new contract commencing in 2016.

SCRUTINY LIAISON FORUM

22. Scrutiny Liaison Forum met on 24 January 2017. Comments from the Forum have been included at Appendix 1. In addition, SLF acknowledged that there may need to be a review of the operation of Community Participation Budgets, subject to Council's Budgetary decisions, and recommended that Executive Scrutiny Committee consider the need for a Task and Finish Review of this issue in due course.

CONSULTATION

23. All Councillors, SMT and key partner agencies have been asked to propose topics for the scrutiny work programme. Discussions also took place at the recent Select Committee overview meetings.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

24. No financial or legal implications arising from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

25. There is a need to meet legislative requirements and for the Council to put in place internal mechanisms to ensure the safety and quality of key services in addition to deploying resources in the most effective way. 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.

Deputy Chief Executive

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

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

Ref Number	Suggested Topic	Public Interest	Impact	Council Efficiency & Performance	Keep in Context	Priority	Outcome	Total	Comments from SLF	
	Mental Health and Wellbeing (including suicide and self-harm)			Already on Work Programme						
	Asylum Seekers									
	Membership of Local Govt. Bodies									
1	SEND	3	3	1	3	2	3	15		
2	Memorials	3	3	1	3	2	3	15		
3	Security in Preston Park	2	2	2	3	2	3	14	Task and Finish	
4	Disabled Parking	3	3	1	2	2	3	14	Task and Finish	
5	Sickness Absence	2	2	3	3	2	2	14		
6	Consolidation of Thirteen Group	3	2	2	3	2	2	14	To be scheduled from 2018 onwards	
7	Digital Optimisation	3	3	1	1	2	3	13		
8	Better Care Fund	3	3	2	1	0	2	11	Not appropriate to be conducted at this time	
9	Defibrillators	2	2	1	2	2	2	11		
10	Gambling	2	2	1	2	2	1	10		
11	CCTV	2	2	1	1	1	2	9	Consider linkages to Community Participation Budgets (subject to Budget decisions)	
12	Educational role of the Council	3	2	1	0	1	2	9	To include elements of the 14-19 pathway.	
13	Food Hygiene	3	2	1	1	1	1	9	Task and Finish	
14	Breastfeeding	2	1	2	1	2	1	9	Not appropriate at the current time. Locality Forums have undertaken significant work. Consider from 2018 following implementation of	

Appendix 1

									revised Health Visitor service.
15	Consultation	2	2	1	1	1	1	8	Relevant aspects to be included in Digital Optimisation review
16	14 – 19 provision	3	2	1	0	0	2	8	Relevant aspects to be included in Educational Role of Council review.
17	VCSE Sector	2	1	1	0	1	1	6	
18	Grant Administration	1	1	1	0	0	1	4	Relevant aspects to be included in Digital Optimisation review

Appendix 2

Potential 2017/18 Work Programme Allocation

Select Committee	Potential Topics (In order of start date)
Adult Services and Health	Defibrillators Gambling
Children and Young People	SEND Educational Role of the Council
Crime and Disorder	Membership of Local Govt. Bodies (carry forward) CCTV <i>Security in Preston Park (Short Task and Finish Review)</i>
People	Mental Health and Wellbeing (carry forward) Sickness Absence Digital Optimisation
Place	Asylum Seekers (carry forward) Management of Memorials Consolidation of Thirteen Group <i>Disabled Parking (Short Task and Finish Review)</i> <i>Food Hygiene (Short Task and Finish Review)</i>