

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**25 JUNE 2019**

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT  
DIRECTOR – ADMINISTRATION,  
DEMOCRATIC AND  
ELECTORAL SERVICES**

**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20 – SELECTION OF IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY  
REVIEWS**

**SUMMARY**

The report asks Executive Scrutiny Committee to consider the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Executive Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the first scrutiny topics for Select Committees and endorse the priorities for the remainder of the year.

**WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

1. Prior to the May 2019 local elections, Councillors and officers were invited to submit initial topic suggestions for the scrutiny work programme for 2019/20, with a view to Executive Scrutiny Committee reviewing the full work programme following the local elections.
2. **Appendix 1** sets out all of the topic suggestions received in priority order and the proposed allocations to Select Committees. It is unlikely that all of these reviews would be completed within one year, and it is anticipated that some will roll forward to 2020/21. **Appendix 2** sets out the prioritisation of topics and **Appendix 3** sets out the pro forma received supporting each topic suggestion.
3. Following consideration by Scrutiny Liaison Forum, in February 2019 Executive Scrutiny Committee agreed the following first topics for scrutiny in 2019/20:
  - **Care Homes for Older People** (Adult Social Care & Health Select Committee)
  - **Careers Provision** (Children & Young People Select Committee)
  - **Roadside Advertising** (Crime & Disorder Select Committee)
  - **Local Council Tax Support Scheme** (People Select Committee)
  - **Area Transport Strategy** (Place Select Committee)
4. At this Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting, an emergency issue was identified relating to the **Protection of Vulnerable Older People Living at Home**, and this was referred to the Crime and Disorder Select Committee. Preliminary work commenced on this review prior to the local elections, and work will now continue with the new Crime and Disorder Select Committee membership.

5. Since the last Executive Scrutiny Committee meeting in February 2019, officers have identified a need to bring forward the **Smarter Working in Stockton (SWiS) - Accommodation and Buildings** topic, and it is therefore recommended to Executive Scrutiny Committee that the People Select Committee appoint a Task and Finish Group to undertake this work (with the aim of reporting to Cabinet in October 2019).
6. In addition to the reviews listed on Appendix 1, the following review topics were received from North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust:
  - 'Prevention (Local Authority contract/provision) which is a system wide issue for the future and will have a major impact on health and reliance on acute and social care;
  - Population health to improve key public health targets for the population served;
  - Changes in services with the metric of ensuring an improvement in access, quality and care as close to home as possible'.

Further detail has been provided as follows: 'we would very much appreciate if you could consider reviewing ways to prevent childhood obesity, smoking and drug and alcohol dependency in addition to how services could be improved in respect to respiratory and smoking to ensure that services are accessible and provided as close to people's homes as possible.'

The following topic suggestions were received from NHS Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees CCG:

- Smoking – tobacco control, early intervention/prevention and service delivery (as that would cover a wider cross cutting issue and is in line with the HWBS)
  - Alcohol & Drugs - this is a service currently being reviewed and re-procured and an independent review may identify interdependencies and gaps to enable a more joined up commissioning approach
  - Sexual Health Services - due to the rising incidence – also cross cutting recognising the investment in prevention reduces future healthcare costs and where we can work better together in responding to need and gaps
7. Some of these topics may benefit from wider scrutiny by the various Joint Health Scrutiny Committees that are in place locally.

## OTHER SCRUTINY WORK

8. In addition to in-depth scrutiny review work, the Select Committee Work Programme also comprises other elements including:

**Overview and Monitoring** - provides Members with an overview of all the services reporting to the various Select Committees. The overview role includes holding to account Cabinet Members and Senior Officers on their performance, and understanding the challenges and issues arising ahead of the next year's programme. In addition, Select Committees receive progress reports in respect of the reviews which have concluded.

**Quality and Safety** - Children and Young People Select Committee receive regular performance reports in respect of children's services. Adult Social Care 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. Member site visits to frontline services take place on a rolling programme.

**Health Scrutiny** - Adult Social Care 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. Proposals may also be considered under statutory joint committee arrangements.

Standing joint health scrutiny arrangements include the North East Regional Health Committee and the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. Regionally, officers have been tasked with reviewing the structure of standing joint committees due to the evolving nature of the health landscape, including the Integrated Care System. Updates on this will be reported to CMT.

**Crime and Disorder** - Crime and Disorder Select Committee is 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.

Stockton also have representation on the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel who set their own scrutiny work programme.

## **CONSULTATION**

9. Councillors, officers and key partners were asked to propose topics for the scrutiny work programme.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. The work programme is resourced within existing budgets. No legal implications are identified at this stage.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

11. 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.

## **Assistant Director – Administration, Democratic and Electoral Services**

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

**Appendix 1**

**2019/20 Work Programme Allocation**

Select Committee	Potential In-Depth Review Topics (In order of start date)
Adult Social Care and Health	Care Homes for Older People Hospital Discharge One Call
Children and Young People	Careers Provision Domestic Abuse School Uniforms
Crime and Disorder	Protection of Vulnerable Older People Roadside Advertising Action Fraud Fly-Grazed Horses

<p>People</p>	<p>Local Council Tax Support Scheme</p> <p>Smarter Working in Stockton - Accommodation and Buildings (Task and Finish Group)</p> <p>Tees Credit Union</p> <p>Bereavement Fees – Child Burial [one meeting?]</p> <p>Public Consultation</p>
<p>Place</p>	<p>Area Transport Strategy</p> <p>Business Engagement</p> <p>Contaminated Land</p> <p>Planters in Residential Streets</p> <p>Planning Enforcement</p>