

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

23 MARCH 2021

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

**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22 – SELECTION OF IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY
REVIEWS**

SUMMARY

The report summarises topic suggestions and supporting information received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the priority of the proposed topics and set the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22.

WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

1. The current programme is summarised below. Completed reviews are in bold:

Select Committee	In-Depth Review Topics
Adult Social Care and Health	Hospital Discharge (Phase 1 – Care Homes) Hospital Discharge (Phase 2)
Children and Young People	School Uniforms Care Leavers EET
Crime and Disorder	Fly-Grazed Horses Fraud Awareness (Personal) Police Ward Member Communications (T&F)
People	Public Consultation Carbon Monoxide Awareness (one off session)
Place	Business Engagement Planters in Residential Streets (Task and Finish) Burial Provision

SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR 2021/22

2. Councillors and officers have been invited to submit topic suggestions for the scrutiny work programme for 2021/22.
3. A "PICK" priority scoring system is used to allocate a score to each topic suggestion. It should be stressed that the score is a tool to aid prioritisation and is not binding in any way. All topic suggestions received and their scores are attached at **Appendix 1**.
4. All review suggestions have been listed by Select Committee at **Appendix 2** to indicate where reviews might be allocated. Select Committee have flexible remits and there is also the option to move reviews between Committees. This list is purely indicative: it would not be possible to complete all these reviews in one year particularly since most Select Committees are already in the middle of reviews which will not be completed until some months into the next municipal year.
5. It is proposed that a focused 2021/22 scrutiny work programme is established with one main in-depth review identified for each Select Committee to be completed alongside their other work.
6. The PICK scoring system is attached at **Appendix 3**.
7. Supporting information is attached at **Appendix 4**.

CONSULTATION

8. Councillors and officers have been asked to propose topics for the initial work programme.
9. Scrutiny Liaison Forum are considering topic suggestions and prioritisation on 18 March 2021 and an update on discussions will be provided to Executive Scrutiny Committee at the meeting.

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.

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

Appendix 1

Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22

Ref No.	Suggested Topic	Public Interest	Impact	Council Efficiency & Performance	Keep in Context	Council Plan Priority	Outcome	Total	Comments
1	Child Poverty	3	2	2	3	2	3	15	
2	Potholes	3	2	2	3	2	3	15	Due to funding package, would need to be extended to cover the asset management of all highway assets
3	Day Services	3	3	1	3	2	2	14	
4	Multi Agency Support to Care Homes	3	2	2	1	2	3	13	Focused T&F
5	LGPS	1	2	2	3	2	3	13	
6	Disability Inclusive Borough	3	2	2	2	2	2	13	
7	Care at Home	3	2	1	2	2	2	12	
8	Tees Credit Union	2	2	1	3	2	2	12	Review after recruitment for new Chief Exec
9	Residents Parking Schemes	2	2	2	3	1	2	12	
10	Public Space Protection Orders	2	2	1	2	2	2	11	
11	Flooding	2	2	1	1	1	2	9	Briefing for Cttee as part of wider asset management
12	Bonfires	1	2	1	1	1	2	8	Suggest this covers deliberate fire setting, incorporating bonfires, as part of arson reduction strategy

Appendix 2

All Topic Suggestions by Committee

(For illustrative purposes only)

Select Committee	Potential Topics (In order of start date)
Adult Services and Health	Day Services Multi Agency Support to Care Homes Care at Home
Children and Young People	Child Poverty
Crime and Disorder	Public Space Protection Orders Bonfires
People	LGPS Disability Inclusive Borough Tees Credit Union
Place	Potholes Residents Parking Schemes Flooding

PICK Priority Setting

P for Public Interest

Members' representative roles are an essential feature of Scrutiny. They are the eyes and ears of the public, ensuring that the policies, practice and services delivered to the people of the District, by both the Council and external organisations, are meeting local needs and to an acceptable standard. The concerns of local people should therefore influence the issues chosen for scrutiny. This could include current issues. For example, dignity is consistently cited as a high priority for service users (e.g. Mid Staffordshire Enquiry, care in Winterbourne hospital) and scrutiny committees are well placed to influence the agenda locally and drive forward better-quality services). Members themselves will have a good knowledge of local issues and concerns. Surgeries, Parish Councils, Residents Associations and Community Groups are all sources of resident's views. Consultation and Surveys undertaken by the Council and others can also provide a wealth of information.

I for Impact

Scrutiny is about making a difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area. Not all issues of concern will have equal impact on the well-being of the community and there may be issues which are important to residents but where the Council can exert little or no influence. This should be considered when deciding the programme of work, giving priority to the big issues that have most impact and where scrutiny can tangibly influence the outcome. To maximise impact, particularly when scrutinising external activity, attention should also be given to how the committee could influence policy and practice.

C for Council Performance

Scrutiny is about improving performance and ensuring the Council's customers are served well. With the abolition of external inspection regimes, scrutiny has an even more important role to play in self-regulation. Members will need good quality information to identify areas where the Council, and other external organisations, are performing poorly. Areas where performance has dropped should be our priority. As well as driving up Council performance, scrutiny also has an important role in scrutinising the efficiency and value for money of Council services and organizational development. In the current financial climate, the challenge for scrutiny is investigating whether improvements can be made within existing resources or with less resource and identify ways that demand for services can be reduced.

K for Keep in Context

To avoid duplication or wasted effort priorities should take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered. Is there another review happening or planned? Is the service about to be inspected by an external body? Are there major legislative or policy initiatives already resulting in change? If these circumstances exist Members may decide to link up with other approaches or defer a decision until the outcomes are known or conclude that the other approaches will address the issues. Reference should also be made to proposed programmes of work in the Council's plans and strategies and whether topic suggestion is in line with the Council's four policy principles.

Council Plan

All topic suggestions should be in line with the Council Plan.

Outcome

Greater weighing will be given to those suggestions where it is clear that scrutiny will make a tangible difference, can exert influence, achieve savings and reduce pressure on demand for services.

Scoring System

- **P**ublic Interest: the concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen

Score	Measure
0	no public interest
1	low public interest
2	medium public interest
3	high public interest

- **I**mpact: priority should be given to the issues which make the biggest difference to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area

Score	Measure
0	no direct impact
1	low impact
2	medium impact
3	high impact

- **C**ouncil Performance and efficiency: priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other agencies, are not performing well or proposals will identify efficiencies/ savings and reduce pressure on demand for services.

Score	Measure
0	'Green' on or above target performance
1	'Amber',
2	low performance 'Red'

- **K**eep in Context: work programmes must take account of what else is happening in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort.

Score	Measure
0	Already dealt with/ not a Council/ public sector priority
1	Longer term aspiration or plan
2	Need for review acknowledged and worked planned elsewhere
3	Need for review acknowledged

In addition, extra weighting will be given to suggestions which are in line with the Council's priorities and where it is clear that scrutiny can achieve a positive outcome:

- **C**ouncil Plan Priority

Score	Measure
0	Not a Council Plan priority
1	Council Plan priority but worked planned elsewhere
2	Council Plan priority and need for review acknowledged

- **O**utcome

Score	Measure
1	Low value added
2	Medium value added
3	High value added