

Executive Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Executive Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 22nd March, 2022.

Present: Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley (Chair), Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Barbara Inman, Cllr Niall Innes, Cllr Clare Gamble (Substitute or Observer)

Officers: Judy Trainer, Gary Woods, Rachel Harrison, Michael Henderson, John Devine (MD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ian Dalgarno, Cllr Paul Kirton, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Tony Riordan, Cllr Marilyn Surtees, Cllr Laura Tunney, Cllr Barry Woodhouse.

ESC 36/21 **Evacuation Procedure**

The Committee noted the evacuation and housekeeping procedure.

ESC 37/21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

ESC 38/21 **Minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

ESC 39/21 **Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23 - Selection of In Depth Scrutiny Reviews**

The Committee considered a report that detailed a suggested scrutiny work programme for 2022/23. Members were reminded that, as a new Council would be formed, following the local elections in May 2023, there would be no possibility to carry reviews forward to 2023/24. Members were also reminded that all reviews would have to be reported to Cabinet in early - 2023, ahead of the "purdah" election period and that the Scrutiny team were currently working at reduced staffing levels.

Given the time constraints and the reduced staffing resource, it was proposed that a focused 2022/23 scrutiny work programme should be established with one main, in-depth, review identified for each Select Committee to be completed alongside their other work.

The proposed topics had been presented to the Scrutiny Liaison Forum (SLF) earlier in March 2022 and Members were informed of the main comments from the SLF, as follows:-

- The Access to GP & Primary Care review be carried out by the Adult Social Care & Health Select Committee (ASCH) instead of being referred to Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.
- The scoring of the Tree Asset Management review would be revised recognising the significant public interest in many wards. This was to be carried

out by the Crime & Disorder Select Committee.

- That a Members Policy Briefing would be held in respect of procurement of litter bins and other aspects of litter bins linked to Members' Community Participation Budgets.
- That the scoping of the review of Planning Services/ Adoption of Open Space would need to be tightly focused to provide clarity of outcome and ensure delivery within the available timescales.

Members were advised that the scoring of each topic was initially carried out by officers and was purely indicative. This Committee was the final arbiter with regard to scoring and the scrutiny work programme.

Members requested that consideration be given to the Access to GP and Primary Care topic being undertaken during 2022/23.

The Committee noted that the proposed litter bins topic would be the subject of a Members' Policy Briefing and it was explained that there would be an opportunity to have some constructive debate about tendering/procurement processes at that briefing.

The scoring of the Recycling/ Recycling Collections prompted more discussion and suggestions that it should be part of the work programme. The Committee accepted that its inclusion in the forthcoming year's work programme may be difficult, given the time and capacity restraints, previously mentioned. It was agreed that a review of this topic may be best undertaken when such restraints were no longer a factor and when further details from the review of 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy for England had been published.

AGREED that the Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23, as detailed in Appendix 2, of the report, and below, be approved: -

Select Committee	Work Programme Topic
Adult Services and Health	Care at Home Access to GP and Primary Care (Refer on to 2023/24 Work Programme if necessary)
Children and Young People	Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Violence/ Preventing violent and coercive behaviour in youth relationships
Crime and Disorder	Bonfires on Public Land Tree Asset Management
People	Home Insulation/ Supporting Green Jobs of the Future
Place	Planning Service/

**ESC
40/21** **Executive Summary (for information) - Scrutiny Review of Local Government Pension Scheme**

Members were presented with the Executive Summary of the People Select Committee's final report, coming from its Scrutiny Review of Local Government Pension Scheme. The summary was provided for information purposes and highlighted the key findings of the review and its recommendations. It was explained that the full report and its recommendations had been agreed by Cabinet, at its meeting held on 17 March 2022.

AGREED that the summary report be noted.

**ESC
41/21** **Executive Summary (for information) - Scrutiny Review of Public Space Protection Orders**

Members were presented with the Executive Summary of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's final report, coming from its Scrutiny Review of Public Space Protection Orders. The summary was provided for information purposes and outlined the key findings of the review and its recommendations. It was explained that the full report and its recommendations had been agreed by Cabinet, at its meeting held on 17 February 2022.

AGREED that the summary report be noted.

**ESC
42/21** **Select Committee Chairs Updates**

Members were provided with updates from the Chairs of each Select Committee. Updates and discussion included:

Adult Social Care and Health: -

The Scrutiny Review for Day Opportunities for Adults has been extended due to evidence-gathering delays caused by the COVID pandemic, but the draft final report would be ready to go to Committee in April 2022 to then follow onto Cabinet in May 2022.

Members were also given an update on developments regarding Butterwick Limited and Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) both of which had been asked to answer the committee questions following concerns raised by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Children and Young People: -

The Chair updated members on the committees work and informed members that the draft final report of the Child Poverty Scrutiny Review would go to April Select Committee.

Crime and Disorder: -

Members were informed that the Police Communications in Stockton-on-Tees review recommendations had been endorsed by Cabinet in January 2022. However, due to recent changes in staff at Cleveland Police, there had been challenges in pulling together the Action Plan in relation to the agreed

recommendations, with concerns expressed by the Committee on the impact of continuing turnover of key personnel would have on police related communications. Members were told that the recent Police Communications Survey for all SBC Ward Councillors would be issued again in September 2022 to monitor any change.

People Select Committee Chairs Update: -
Members noted the updated from the People Select Committee Chair.

Place Select Committee Chairs Update: -
The Residents Parking Zone review had progressed recently with a meeting between Members and local business groups to talk through enforcement and application. It was agreed that there is no simple answer which will satisfy all parties and areas. The Committee would now reflect on feedback from local business and Members (following a Members survey which was undertaken as part of this review), to draft some recommendations.

AGREED that the updates and discussion be noted and actioned as appropriate.

**ESC
43/21** **Forward Plan of Key Decisions**

AGREED that the plan be noted.

**ESC
44/21** **Executive Scrutiny Chair's Update and Work Programme**

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme.
The Chair reminded Members that the scopes of each review, in the Scrutiny Work Programme, would be developed in the coming weeks/ months, which would then allow Select Committees to make the decision on their work programmes and how many meetings may be required to carry out each review. It was accepted that some additional meetings may need to be scheduled.

AGREED that the work programme be noted.