

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**22 MARCH 2022**

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

**SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23 – SELECTION OF IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY  
REVIEWS**

**SUMMARY**

The report summarises topic suggestions received and prioritisation scoring.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Executive Scrutiny Committee are asked to set the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2022/23 and allocate reviews to Select Committees.

**WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

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

Select Committee	In-Depth Review Topics
Adult Social Care and Health	<b>Hospital Discharge (Phase 2)</b> <b>Review of Multi-Agency Support to Care Homes during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Task &amp; Finish)</b> Day Opportunities for Adults (due to report in May 2022) Care at Home
Children and Young People	<b>Care Leavers EET</b> Child Poverty (due to report in May 2022)
Crime and Disorder	<b>Fraud Awareness (Personal)</b> <b>Police Communications in Stockton-on-Tees (T&amp;F)</b> <b>Review of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)</b> Bonfires on Public Land (due to report in September 2022)
People	<b>Carbon Monoxide Awareness</b> <b>Disability Inclusive Borough</b> <b>LGPS (T&amp;F)</b> Tees Credit Union (due to report in June 2022)
Place	<b>Highways Asset Management (inc. Potholes and Flooding)</b> Residents Parking Zones (due to report in June 2022)

## SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR 2022/23

2. Councillors and officers have been invited to submit topic suggestions for the scrutiny work programme for 2022/23.

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. In agreeing a programme for 2022/23, the following must be taken into account:

- There is no option to carry forward work on reviews commenced into the following year due to the local elections in May 2023
- Reviews will need to report to Cabinet in early 2023, ahead of the "purdah" election period and staff time will need to be focused on preparing for the local elections after Christmas
- Adult Social Care and Health and Crime and Disorder Select Committees will have just commenced work on their final reviews from the current year
- The scrutiny team are currently working at reduced staffing levels

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

## COMMENTS FROM SCRUTINY LIAISON FORUM

6. Scrutiny Liaison Forum met on 8 March to discuss the prioritisation of the topics. Their views are set out below:

- Access to GP and Primary Care should be carried out by the ASCH Select Committee rather than being referred to Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee. However, it is accepted that work is unlikely to commence on this review until 2023/24
- The scoring of the Tree Asset Management review should be revised recognising the significant public interest in many wards and acknowledged need for review. This review to be conducted by Crime and Disorder Select Committee as their second review in place of Litter Bins
- A Members' Policy Briefing should be held in respect of procurement of litter bins and other aspects of litter bins linked to Members' Community Participation Budgets
- The scoping of the review of Planning Service/ Adoption of Open Space will need to be tightly focused to provide clarity of outcome and ensure delivery within the available timescales

7. **Appendix 1** has been revised taking account of the views of Scrutiny Liaison Forum and the topics scored "above the line" are listed by Select Committee at **Appendix 2**. Members are reminded that Select Committee have flexible remits and there is the option to move reviews between Committees.

8. The PICK scoring system is attached at **Appendix 3**. Supporting information is attached at **Appendix 4**.

## CONSULTATION

9. Councillors and officers have been asked to propose topics for the 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.

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

### Appendix 1 - Scrutiny Work Programme 2022/23

Ref No.	Suggested Topic	Public Interest	Impact	Council Efficiency & Performance	Keep in Context	Council Plan Priority	Outcome	Total	Comments
1	Care at Home								
2	Bonfires on Public Land								
3	Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Violence/ Preventing violent and coercive behaviour in youth relationships	3	3	1	3	2	3	15	
4	Access to GP and Primary Care	3	3	1	3	2	3	15	
5	Children's Mental Health	2	3	1	3	2	3	14	Refer to TV Joint Health Scrutiny
6	Adoption of Open Space	2	3	1	3	2	3	14	Combine with 10
7	Home Insulation/ Supporting Green Jobs of the Future	2	3	2	2	2	3	14	
8	Litter Bins	2	3	2	2	2	3	14	Remove from Scrutiny Work Programme and request the topic be added to the Members' briefing programme
9	Tree Asset Management	3	2	2	2	2	2	13	
10	Planning Service	1	2	2	3	2	3	13	Combine with 6
11	Stockton Bus Services	3	2	1	2	1	3	12	
12	Recycling/ Recycling Collections	3	2	2	1	1	1	10	Review when further details are known re the 2018 Resources and Waste Strategy for England
13	Park and Ride Facilities across Events	2	2	1	1	2	2	10	
14	School Governor Support	2	2	1	1	2	2	10	

## Appendix 2

### Topic Suggestions by Committee

Select Committee	Potential Topics (In order of start date)
Adult Services and Health	Care at Home Access to GP and Primary Care (refer on to 2023/24 programme)
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/ Adoption of Open Space

## 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