

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO EXECUTIVE
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

5 SEPTEMBER 2023

**REPORT OF THE HEAD
OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24 – UPDATE

SUMMARY

The report presents an additional topic suggestion which has been received for consideration as to whether this year's scrutiny work programme should be amended and include as an in depth review. An update is also provided on the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's work programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Executive Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider whether the further topic suggestion should be included in the current year's scrutiny work programme and, if so, allocate to an appropriate Select Committee.

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

1. Councillors and officers were invited to submit topic suggestions for the scrutiny work programme for 2023/24. The suggestions were prioritised and discussed by Scrutiny Liaison Forum. Comments from Scrutiny Liaison Forum were incorporated into a report which was considered by Executive Scrutiny Committee on 28 March 2023. Executive Scrutiny Committee agreed a draft work programme at their meeting on 28 March 2023 and this was reviewed and confirmed at their first meeting after the local elections on 4 July 2023.
2. The approved work programme by Select Committee is attached at **Appendix 1**.
3. A further topic suggestion has subsequently been received from Councillor Steve Nelson regarding the access to and impact of vaping. If agreed, the review would scrutinise the use of vapes by young people including its prevalence in the borough, environmental impact and the related impacts on health, education and finances. A copy of the topic suggestion pro forma is attached at **Appendix 2**. Revised scoring under the scrutiny "Pick" system (**Appendix 3**) places the topic suggestion as a high priority. The Committee are asked to consider whether this should be included in the current year's work programme and, if so, allocate to an appropriate Select Committee.
4. In addition to the above, as a result of scoping work and tri partite discussions regarding the Crime and Disorder Select Committee's next review of Safety of Staff in the Night Time Economy, it has become evident that this piece of work is unlikely to warrant a full in depth scrutiny review and a lighter touch approach may be more appropriate. Concerns about staff safety have not been raised by local business and there are limited powers to address the issue through the licensing regime. A report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Crime and Disorder Select Committee to provide context and background and provided the Select Committee receive adequate assurances at this meeting, there may be capacity in their work programme, to take on an additional review.
5. Members are reminded that Select Committees have flexible remits and there is the option to move reviews between Committees.

CONSULTATION

6. Councillors and officers were asked to propose topics for the work programme.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. 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

Select Committee Work Programme 2023/24

| Select Committee | Potential Topics (In order of start date) |
|---------------------------|---|
| Adult Services and Health | Access to GP and Primary Care Adult Safeguarding |
| Children and Young People | Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment HAF Programme |
| Crime and Disorder | Safety of staff in the Night Time Economy Play Area Distribution, Maintenance and Physical Accessibility |
| People | Cost of Living Response Disabled Facilities Grants Adult Carers' Service |
| Place | Domestic Waste Collections, Kerbside Recycling and Green Waste Collections Roadside Advertising |