

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme

Date: 20 July 2020

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Purpose To provide an update on the 2019/20 Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme and identify potential items for inclusion in the 2020/21 programme.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) Consider and note the information relating to the 2019/20 work programme.**
- 2) Discuss and consider issues for indepth examination in the 2020/21 Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme.**

1 2019/20 Scrutiny Work Programme

- 1.1**
 - Economic Development Working Group, The Opportunity to Intervene – for economic and social reasons.**
 - Executive – Scrutiny Protocol**

The reports and recommendations from these two reviews was presented to Cabinet on the 19th March. A written response to the recommendations will be available at the September committee at which time members will have the opportunity to discuss the response to the recommendations.

Housing Allocations Consultation

The working group that had been examining the Housing Allocations policy will receive an update on the progress of the policy in due course. The policy is due for presentation to Cabinet on 6th August.

2 2020/2021 Scrutiny Work Programme

2.1 One of the main roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is establishing and managing the Council's programme of scrutiny work.

This includes:

- agreeing a programme of work for the municipal year
- monitoring progress of the programme throughout the year
- developing reports and recommendations on issues of local concern
- evaluating the progress of any recommendations made.

Effective work programming is important for effective scrutiny. When setting the work programme the Committee should aim to have clear priorities for what it is hoping to achieve and how they want to do it.

The work programme which is a flexible plan outlines the programme for the coming municipal year and is usually developed at the first meeting after the annual Council. The programme is drawn together by the Chair and members of the Committee and can include issues put forward by Members, topics that arise during discussion with Portfolio Holders and senior officers, priorities in the Gedling Plan, concerns generated from the corporate complaints policy, or performance data, potential issues arising from corporate priorities or the Forward Plan and concerns raised by the Residents Satisfaction Survey. To assist members identify issues for review copies of the Forward Plan, the Gedling Plan and information regarding complaints data is attached at **Appendices 1-3**. Members may view the results of the Gedling Satisfaction Survey using the following link

<https://democracy.gedling.gov.uk/documents/s22717/Gedling%20Satisfaction%20Survey%202019.pdf>

The work programme is flexible and reviewed at each meeting and allows members the opportunity to amend or ask for items to be included. A framework for the work programme is attached at **Appendix 4**.

- 2.2 Regular items in the programme include scrutiny of Portfolio Holders with a focus on performance, consideration of the Corporate Risk Management Scorecard, examination of complaints data and examining the work of the local Community Safety Partnership. The committee has earlier agreed to continue with the programme of Portfolio Holder attendance at committee. When a Portfolio Holder attends it is a requirement of the committee that members take the opportunity to use data available to scrutinise issues of concern within the Portfolio. Issues relating to performance targets being met, complaints received or any emerging themes relating to the Portfolio that require attention should be considered.
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to discuss and identify issues they would like to include in the work programme for 2020/21. This is for inclusion in the programme both for Committee meetings and also for detailed examination by task and finish working groups. Members are asked to consider all the suggestions put forward at committee and decide how to address the identified topics. Items put forward could be included in the Committee agenda, be addressed by short, time limited reviews of two or three meetings, or be programmed for longer in depth examination. Members are reminded when identifying issues for examination consideration should be given to how the review will result in improvements for local people.
- 2.4 Prior to the Pandemic it was agreed by the committee that there should be working group established to examine issues relating to the recent problems some areas of the borough have experienced due to flooding. This was to include contacting relevant officers and partner organisations to find out what measures are being considered to mitigate future flooding risk, examining local and national plans and strategies that underpin flooding responses and assessing what assistance is available for residents affected by flooding. The Service Manager Health and Safety and Emergency Planning was due to attend the committee to give an overview of the issues and problems associated with flooding in the borough. Due to the current crisis this officer has had, and continues to have, a pivotal role and attendance at the committee will have to be delayed until the effects of the pandemic subside.
- 2.5 To assist members to select issues that will result in benefits for the residents of the Borough a topic selection template is appended to this

report at **Appendix 5**. Members may want to consider delaying selection until the September Committee to enable additional discussion to take place.

Proposal

- 2** The committee is asked to think about areas for inclusion in the work programme, items that they would like to examine as a committee and those issues they would like to consider in more depth by establishing a working group.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implication arising from this report.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

8 Appendices

Appendix 1. Forward Plan

Appendix 2. Gedling Plan 2020-2023

Appendix 3 Complaints information

Appendix 4 Committee work programme

Appendix 5 Topic Selection Template.