

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Subject: Scrutiny Work Programme

Date: 7 September 2020

Author: Democratic Services Officer

Purpose

To provide an update regarding completed scrutiny reviews in the 2020/21 programme, information requested at earlier committees and an update on the current scrutiny work programme.

Recommendation(s)

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 1) Consider and discuss the responses to the 2019/20 scrutiny reviews**
 - a. Economic Development Working Group, The Opportunity to Intervene – for economic and social reasons.**
 - and**
 - b. Formally approve the Executive –Scrutiny Protocol**
- 2) Consider and discuss the information from previous committees**
- 3) Consider and discuss information regarding to the Planning White Paper consultation**
- 4) Note the update on scrutiny working groups**
- 5) Consider and discuss the scrutiny work programme and Forward Plan.**

1 2019/20 Scrutiny Work Programme

1.1 Completed Scrutiny Reviews

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

The report and recommendations from this review was presented to Cabinet on the 19th March. A written response is attached at Appendix 1, members have the opportunity to discuss this response.

- **Executive – Scrutiny Protocol**

The reports and recommendations from these two reviews was presented to Cabinet on the 19th March. The protocol and a written response is attached at **Appendix 2**. Members will have the opportunity to discuss the response are asked to formally agree this protocol.

1.2 Housing Allocations Consultation

The working group that had been examining the Housing Allocations policy was curtailed due to the pandemic. Below is an update which will be final results will be presented to Cabinet when the additional piece of consultation has been completed.

Officers undertook a public consultation for a 12 week period. We received 69 responses. The feedback was generally positive, with the changes being well received. This included:

- How the Council prioritises homeless applicants - 91% of respondents agreed to the changes.
- Use of the housing register auto bid System - 82% of respondents agreed to the changes.
- Local Connection Criteria - 89% of respondents agreed to the changes
- Additional grounds for exclusion from the housing register - 94% of respondents agreed to the changes.

However, another issue has arisen which requires some further consideration and Officers are therefore seeking to undertake a further 4 weeks public consultation. In order to do so, Officers will need a portfolio

approval, which is currently being sought.

Once this consultation has taken place, officers will report back to Overview and Scrutiny.”

Joelle Davies

Service Manager Economic Growth and Regeneration

2 Information Updates from Previous Items at committee

- 2.1
- What are our costs for temp accommodation 2019/20?
 - The new accommodation to reduce time spent in temporary accommodation. What is the expected impact on reduction in timescales of time spent in temp accommodation?

A total of £306.00 was spent on temporary accommodation, £278,000 on bed & breakfast accommodation and a further £28,000 on temporary accommodation property. Currently work is being undertaken to address issues around temporary accommodation and a report will be going to Cabinet in October. An update for the committee, which will fully inform members about two issues will be available at the November meeting.

3 2020/2021 Scrutiny Work Programme

3.1 Planning Policy

At the last committee members discussed possible changes to planning policy and requested that they be kept informed of any proposed changes and how this could impact on the borough. Committee members may be aware that a Planning White Paper ‘Planning for the Future’ was published on 6th August and comments are invited until 29th October. The consultation seeks views on a package of proposals for reform of the planning system, intended to streamline and modernise the planning process, improve outcomes in design and sustainability, reform developer contributions and ensure more land is available for development where it is needed. As such, the proposals cover plan making, development management, development contributions and other related planning policy proposals. If members want to comment on the consultation questions (embedded within the White Paper) this needs to be done by the end of

September to enable them to be forwarded to the Planning Policy Officer to enable them to be signed off by the Portfolio Holder prior to the consultation deadline.

A briefing note is attached at **Appendix 3**.

4 Scrutiny working groups

4.1 Housing

Working group members: Councillors Boyle, Clunie, Gibbons, Greensmith, Hope, Paling and Ellis.

A meeting of this working group will shortly be arranged. Areas to be examined and contributors to this review will be established.

The work programme developed by these working groups will be reported back to this committee.

4.2 Flooding

Working group members: Councillors Boyle, Clunie, Greensmith, Paling, M Smith and M Smith

The working group will commence its examination in September. It will be considering measures to mitigate the risk of flooding that has affected some areas of the borough and assess what assistance is available for residents affected by this problem. Key questions and concerns will be established and a work programme for the review will be developed.

The County Council report, Flood Risk Management dated 2nd July and a further Flood Risk Management Update which will be presented to the Community and Place Committee on 3rd September will be discussed at the first meeting of the working group.

5 Scrutiny in Committee

- 5.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20th July 2020, members agreed to continue with a programme of attendance by Portfolio Holders and relevant officers at committee. Areas of performance within each Portfolio for examination will be identified, and questions for Portfolio Holders submitted in advance of each meeting, however 'ad hoc' questions may be put forward at the meeting itself. Non-executive

members will also be invited to submit questions for the Portfolio Holder.

5.2 The programme for 2020/21 is below

9 th November	Councillor David Ellis. Public Protection The annual review of Crime and Disorder Partnerships
18 th January	Councillor Viv McCrossen Young People and Equalities Councillor Henry Wheeler Health, Housing and Wellbeing
8 th March	To be confirmed
22 nd April	To be confirmed.

The scrutiny work programme is attached at **Appendix 4**. The work programme is to assist the management of the committee agenda, the scheduling of the committee business and forward planning. The work programme will be updated and reviewed as required. Committee members can suggest issues for possible inclusion.

5.3 A copy of the Forward Plan which sets out details of key and non-key decisions which the Cabinet, individual portfolio holders or officers expect to take during the next four months period is attached at **Appendix 5**. A key decision is one that has financial implication over £500,000 or one that affects two or more wards. This is included to make members aware of planned decisions and to assist them to consider if there are any decisions about which they may want further information.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implication arising from this report.

8 Equalities Implications

8.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

9 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

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

10 Appendices

Appendix 1. Response-Economic Development Working Group, The Opportunity to Intervene – for economic and social reasons.

Appendix 2. Response Executive/Scrutiny protocol

Appendix 3 Briefing Note Planning Consultation

Appendix 4 Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

Appendix 5 Forward Plan