

Report to: Place Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 14 June 2018

By: Assistant Chief Executive

Title: Place Scrutiny Committee future work programme

Purpose: To review and agree items for the Place Scrutiny Committee's future work programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Place Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Agree agenda items for the future Committee meetings, including items carried forward from previous scrutiny committees listed in the draft work programme in appendix 1;**
 - 2) Consider whether to establish the Scrutiny Review Boards referred to in paragraph 2.3 of the report, and appoint Committee members to the Boards;**
 - 3) Agree topics for Scrutiny Reviews to be included in the Committee's future work programme; and**
 - 4) Review upcoming items on East Sussex County Council's (ESCC) Forward Plan in appendix 2 to identify any issues that may require more detailed scrutiny.**
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1 Background

1.1 The work programme is an important tool in ensuring the correct focus and best use of the Committee's time in scrutinising topics that are of importance to the residents of East Sussex, and the efficient and effective working of the Council. It also provides clarity for those who may be requested to give evidence to the Committee on the issues under review, and the questions the Committee requires answers to.

1.2 All reports on the work programme should have a clear objective and purpose. They should not be "to note" or simply be to provide information to the Committee, which could be provided as briefings outside of the formal Committee meetings.

1.3 Discussion of the work programme provides the Committee with the opportunity to examine topics that it may be of value to scrutinise, and to decide whether further scoping work is required. This provides a basis for deciding the best way of scrutinising a topic, the timescale, and who from the Committee will be involved in carrying out the review work. If there are a number of topics for review, the Committee can determine the priority of the work within the resources available to the Committee.

2 Supporting information

Agenda items carried forward from predecessor scrutiny committees

2.1 The remit of the Place Scrutiny Committee encompasses all the services provided by the Communities, Economy and Transport (CET) Directorate as well as corporate services provided by Orbis (Business Services) and Governance Services. The predecessor scrutiny committees for these services were the Economy, Transport and Environment (ETE) Scrutiny Committee and the Audit, Best Value and Community Services (ABVCS) Scrutiny Committee. The draft work programme contained in appendix 1 combines the agenda items that were on the work programmes from the predecessor Committees. The Place Committee is requested to review these items, and agree which items will be included in the Place Scrutiny Committee's future work programme.

Past Scrutiny Work

2.2 The ETE and ABVCS Scrutiny Committees also established Scrutiny Review Boards to examine the following issues:

- The Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy (LSCS)
- Highways verge grass cutting savings proposals
- Waste Contract and Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS) Service savings proposals
- Countryside Access Strategy

2.3 Where appropriate, the Review Boards have provided comments or reports to Cabinet on these Strategies and savings proposals. In some cases there is a small amount of follow-on work related to the work of the various Review Boards. The Committee is asked to consider whether it wishes to:

- Re-establish the Waste Scrutiny Review Board to consider the outcome of the public consultation and make further comments to Cabinet on the HWRS Service proposals on behalf of the Committee (a provisional meeting date with officers has been arranged for 2.00pm on Monday 18 June 2018);
- Establish a Scrutiny Review Board to comment on the proposals for the future management of the countryside sites, as part of the implementation of the Countryside Access Strategy, prior to a decision being made by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment. This is likely to take the form of a short task and finish group.
- Include an item in the work programme in relation to monitoring the implementation of the Libraries Strategic Commissioning Strategy (LSCS).

Future Scrutiny Reviews

2.4 The Committee is asked to consider topics for Scrutiny Reviews to be included in the future work programme. In considering potential topics the Committee should take into consideration whether:

- It is relevant to the Council's Corporate Priorities
- The issue is of concern or of relevance to East Sussex residents
- Scrutiny can have an impact and add value by scrutinising this issue, service or policy
- The issue is one that the Committee can realistically influence
- The resources needed to undertake the review are available

2.5 Potential topics for scrutiny reviews are listed in work programme under the section headed "Potential future scrutiny work" in appendix 1. Any suggestions for potential scrutiny review topics should be discussed with the Chair, or the relevant Senior Democratic Services Officer, in advance of the Committee meetings.

2.6 It may be necessary for the Committee to carry out some initial work to establish the scope and possible lines of enquiry of a review, before making a decision to proceed with undertaking a full Scrutiny Review. A draft terms of reference for the Review can then be developed and submitted for consideration by the Committee. The Committee will then be in a position to agree whether to proceed with the Review; the Review objectives; the Chair and members of the Review Board and; a timescale for completion of the Review.

2.7 Two topics have been proposed for Scrutiny Reviews by members of the Committee. Following some initial work by members of the ETE Scrutiny Committee, a draft terms of reference has been developed for a Scrutiny Review of Road Repairs, a copy of which will be circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting (to follow). The Committee is asked to consider this proposed scrutiny review for inclusion in the Committee's future work programme.

2.8 A second proposal has been received for a Scrutiny Review of the Effectiveness of School Travel Plans. The Committee is asked to consider this proposal and agree whether to proceed with initial scoping for this review. If agreed, the Committee will need to identify which Committee members will undertake the scoping work, who will report back to the Committee in September when the Committee will agree whether to proceed with a full Scrutiny Review.

Forward Plan

2.9 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 June 2018 to 30 September 2018 is included in appendix 2. The Committee is requested to review the forthcoming items on the Forward Plan to identify any issues that may require more detailed scrutiny. The Forward Plan is revised and published on a monthly basis, and Committee members should regularly review the Forward Plan.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 An important part of the managing the work of the new Place Scrutiny Committee is to have an agreed future work programme. The Place Scrutiny Committee's remit covers services that were previously scrutinised by the ETE and ABVCS Scrutiny Committees. There are a number of pieces of work that have been carried forward from these Committee's work programmes, which may need to be included in the Place Scrutiny Committee future work programme.

3.2 The Place Scrutiny Committee is recommended to agree the agenda items, the re-establishment Scrutiny Review Boards, and topics for Scrutiny Reviews to be included in the future work programme, as described in this report and appendices. The Committee is also recommended to review the Council's Forward Plan of decisions to identify any issues that may require more detailed scrutiny.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.