

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 25 June 2018

By: Assistant Chief Executive

Title: People Scrutiny Committee future work programme

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

RECOMMENDATIONS: The People 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 at Appendix 1;**
 - 2) Agree that the 'Coping with Change – the Way Forward' Scrutiny Review continues on the basis of the updated Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 2 and to agree the membership of the Board;**
 - 3) Agree potential topics for Scrutiny Reviews to be included in the Committee's future work programme and to agree which will be prioritised for initial scoping work; and**
 - 4) Review upcoming items on the County Council's Forward Plan (Appendix 3) 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 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 consider 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 potential 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 People Scrutiny Committee encompasses all the services provided by the Adult Social Care and Health Directorate and the Children's Services Directorate. The predecessor scrutiny committees for these services were the Adult Social Care and Community Safety (ASCCS) Scrutiny Committee, the Children's Services (CS) Scrutiny Committee and the Audit, Best Value and Community Services (ABVCS) Scrutiny Committee (for Public Health).

2.2 The draft work programme attached at **Appendix 1** combines the relevant agenda items that were on the work programmes of the predecessor Committees. The People Scrutiny

Committee is requested to review these items, and agree which items will be included in the People Scrutiny Committee's future work programme.

Past Scrutiny Work

2.3 The predecessor Scrutiny Committees had established a number of Review Boards and Reference Groups. The People Scrutiny Committee is requested to review the following Boards and Groups and determine whether and how the topics should be taken forward within the committee's future work programme:

- **'Coping with Change – the Way Forward' Scrutiny Review Board.**

This Review Board is examining a range of issues which relate to the scale and pace of change schools are dealing with. It was created with a particular emphasis on adopting a forward-looking approach and trying to anticipate the future shape of the local educational landscape. A significant amount of work has already been undertaken by the Board which has enabled it to refine lines of enquiry and propose revised Terms of Reference and timescale for completion – attached at Appendix 2 for the Committee's consideration. It is recommended that this Review continues on the basis of the updated Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 2 and that the Committee agrees the membership of the Board.

- **Early Help Reference Group**

The Children's Services Department is undertaking a review of Early Help services. Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee were therefore asked if they would like to sit on an Early Help Reference Group. This group has provided Members with an opportunity to be briefed and make comments on the review as it progresses. The next meeting of the Reference Group has been postponed to provide the People Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to discuss membership of the group and what contributions Members may want to make.

- **Educational Attainment and Performance Reference Group**

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee decided to appoint this group, following the discontinuation of the Education Performance Panel, to provide a forum for Members to discuss attainment and performance issues in more detail. The group meets on ad hoc basis (with one meeting having taken place so far).

- **East Sussex Better Together (ESBT)/Connecting 4 You (C4Y) Scrutiny Board**

This Board was established by the Scrutiny Chairs as a cross-cutting Scrutiny Board drawn from ASCCS, CS and ABVCS Scrutiny Committees, reflecting the fact that County Council services covered by the ESBT and C4Y programmes fell within the remits of all three Committees. Under the new scrutiny arrangements all ESBT/C4Y affected services (Adult Social Care, Public Health and Children's Services) fall within the remit of the People Scrutiny Committee, with the previous Board being discontinued. The Committee may wish to consider how it will approach future scrutiny of ESBT and C4Y within the ongoing work programme.

Future Scrutiny Reviews

2.4 The Committee is asked to consider potential 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 identified by predecessor Committees are listed in the draft work programme at appendix 1 under the section headed 'Potential future scrutiny work'. Any suggestions for potential Scrutiny Review topics should be discussed with the Chair, or the relevant Senior Democratic Services Advisor, 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 for 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. It should be noted that the 'Coping with Change' Review Board has in effect already undertaken its initial scoping work (as discussed in paragraph 2.3).

Forward Plan

2.7 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 June 2018 to 30 September 2018 is included at Appendix 3. The Committee is requested to review the forthcoming items on the Forward Plan to identify any issues within the remit of this Committee 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 People Scrutiny Committee is to have an agreed future work programme. The People Scrutiny Committee's remit covers services that were previously scrutinised by the ASCCS, CS and ABVCS Scrutiny Committees. There are a number of pieces of work that have been carried forward from these Committees' work programmes which may need to be included in the People Scrutiny Committee future work programme, in addition to new topics identified by the Committee.

3.2 The People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to: agree the agenda items to be included in the future work programme; agree the revised Terms of Reference for the 'Coping with Change' Scrutiny Review; and identify potential Scrutiny Review topics, including those to be prioritised for initial scoping. 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