

Report to: People Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 1 October 2018

By: Assistant Chief Executive

Title: People Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

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

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Committee is recommended to:

- 1) review and agree any amendments to the work programme set out in Appendix 1, including agreeing agenda items for future Committee meetings and any changes or additions to the Committee's other scrutiny work;
 - 2) approve the recommendations of the Fostering Service Initial Scoping Board as set out in Appendix 2;
 - 3) approve the recommendations of the Care Market Initial Scoping Board as set out in Appendix 3 and appoint a Chair and Review Board to take forward the proposed Scrutiny Review of the Changing Care Market; and
 - 4) review upcoming items on the County Council's Forward Plan (Appendix 4) 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 and activities on the work programme should have a clear objective and purpose. Reports 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, Members can determine the priority of the work within the resources available to the Committee.

2 Supporting information

Work programme

2.1 The Committee is asked to review and agree any amendments to the items set out in its work programme (attached at Appendix 1). This includes reviewing and agreeing the Committee's future agenda items, its list of potential future scrutiny reviews, the work of its reference groups and the subject matter for any reports for information.

2.2 When considering potential topics for inclusion in the work programme, the Committee is asked to consider a range of questions. These include:

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

2.3 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. Capacity for a further Scoping Board will be created if the Committee agrees Recommendation 2 of this report. Taking into account the factors set out in paragraph 2.2, the Committee is therefore asked to consider whether there are potential areas for scrutiny which would support a new Scoping Board being appointed. The role of a Scoping Board is to carry out some initial work to establish possible lines of enquiry for a review, before determining whether to recommend to the Committee that a full Scrutiny Review be undertaken.

Fostering Service - Initial Scoping Board

2.4 At its meeting in June, the Committee agreed to appoint a 'Fostering Service' Initial Scoping Board. The Board considered a range of evidence relating to the Fostering Service. The Board also met with senior managers of the service on 28 August 2018. Having considered all the evidence presented to them, the Board agreed it would recommend to the Committee that there is not sufficient basis for a formal Scrutiny Review to be undertaken of this service area. However, the Board suggested several potential actions which the Children's Services Department agreed to respond to. Appendix 2 provides more detail about the evidence considered by the Board and the reasons for its recommendation.

Care Market - Initial Scoping Board

2.5 The Committee also agreed in June to appoint an Initial Scoping Board to gather evidence regarding the key challenges within the Adult Social Care market. The Scoping Board held two meetings with a range of officers from Adult Social Care: firstly, in August 2018, to examine the current state of the market and the key challenges; and secondly, in September 2018, to focus on how the challenges are being addressed. As a result of this work, the Scoping Board agreed to recommend that the Committee undertakes a Scrutiny Review of the 'Changing Care Market'. Appendix 3 sets out the proposed terms of reference for this review and the process followed by the Scoping Board for the Committee's approval. Members are also asked to appoint a Review Board and a Chair to take forward this review.

Forward Plan

2.6 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2018 is included at Appendix 4. 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 managing the work of the People Scrutiny Committee is to have an agreed future work programme. This involves the Committee assessing its priorities, ensuring its ongoing reviews are completed in a timely fashion and identifying new areas for scrutiny.

PHILIP BAKER
Assistant Chief Executive

Contact Officer: Stuart McKeown, Senior Democratic Services Adviser

Tel. No. 01273 481583

Email: stuart.mckeown@eastsussex.gov.uk

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None