

Report to: Place Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 17 March 2021

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) Review and agree agenda items for the future Committee meetings, including items listed in the work programme in appendix 1;

2) Agree topics for Scrutiny Reviews to be included in the Committee's future work programme; and

3) 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.

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 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 Work programme and future scrutiny reviews

2.1 The Committee is asked to review the items in the work programme contained in appendix 1 of the report and agree the future agenda items and other scrutiny work of the Committee.

2.2 The Committee is asked to consider whether there are any potential topics for future scrutiny reviews, or agenda items for future meetings, that should be included in the work programme. This can include any topics or issues identified through the Committee's work on the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) process.

Highways Contract Re-Procurement Reference Group

2.3 The Highways Contract Re-Procurement Reference Group has produced an interim report outlining the work undertaken by the Reference Group and commented on the draft Outline Business Case (OBC) prior to it being agreed by Cabinet in January 2021. The Reference Group will continue its work commenting on and contributing to the development of the Detailed Business Case (DBC) for the new Highways Maintenance Services contract which is the next stage of the project.

2.4 The Reference Group has considered the impact of the 6 May 2021 local elections on its work. It agreed that in order to have some continuity it would be preferable to keep the membership of the Reference Group the same after the elections as far as is possible. It may also be necessary for the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee to reconvene the Reference Group and seek to appoint or co-opt new or existing members of the Reference Group (e.g. should they be serving on other scrutiny committees or not re-appointed to the Place Scrutiny Committee) prior to the Place Scrutiny Committee meeting on 23 June 2021.

2.5 The Committee is therefore asked to agree to delegate authority to the Chair of the Place Scrutiny Committee, in consultation with the Vice Chair, to reconvene the Reference Group and appoint the membership of the Reference Group should this be necessary.

3 Forward Plan

3.1 A copy of the Council's Forward Plan of executive decisions for the period 1 March 2021 to 30 June 2021 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 scrutiny work. The Forward Plan is revised and published on a monthly basis, and Committee members should regularly review the Forward Plan.

4 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 The Place Scrutiny Committee is recommended to agree the agenda items and topics for scrutiny reviews to be included in the future work programme. 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.