



Report to Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

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Subject: Work Programme 2014/15

Summary:

This report sets out the broad ways in which the Committee can scrutinise topics and a number of potential topics for the Committee to consider for the 2014/15 Work Programme.

Type of item: The report author should tick the appropriate box

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

To discuss and agree a Work Programme for 2014/15.

Background Papers:

Category of Report: OPEN

Work Programme 2014/15

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the broad ways in which the Committee can scrutinise topics and a number of potential topics for the Committee to consider for the 2014/15 Work Programme.
- 1.2 Members were asked to contribute ideas on potential review topics through a consultation process and these ideas, along with contributions from officers, have informed the topics outlined Section 3.
- 1.3 The purpose of this item is to agree the way in which the Committee wishes to approach the topics outlined in Section 3, bearing in mind there are 5 further Committee meetings in 2014/15.

2. Approaches to Scrutiny

- 2.1 There appear to be four broad ways in which the Committee can choose to scrutinise topics.

1) In-depth work

It is proposed that this is not on the scale of the Cycling Inquiry that the Committee undertook last year. Rather, it would involve 1 or 2 Task Groups completing their work in 3 or 4 months. Each Task Group would lead on, and undertake the work outside of the Committee's meetings. There would be brief oral updates on progress at each of the Committee's regular meetings, with the final report brought back to the Committee for sign-off. It is proposed that each Task Group would include a minimum of 4 councillors including the Chair of the Committee who would also be the Chair of the Task Group. Each Task Group would also have cross-party membership.

2) Single topic meeting

This approach would see the whole of one of the Committee's meetings dedicated to one topic. It would be enable the Committee to scrutinise a topic in more depth than usual and it could involve hearing from a wider range of people or organisations. The Committee's discussion on street lighting involving council officers, Amey and Northern Powergrid is an example of the type of topic that might benefit from this approach.

3) Items for Business meeting

These topics would typically have 45 minutes to an hour of a Committee meeting.

4) Written briefings

This approach could be used for those topics where the Committee wishes to be kept up to date to 'keep an eye' on an issue but does not feel the need to allocate meeting time.

2.2 For clarity, this report is not proposing any changes to how the Scrutiny Committee approaches the Call-In procedure to review a decision. The Call-In process would continue as it currently does.

2.3 It is proposed that the Committee alternates between single topic meetings and business meetings.

3. Potential Topics for the Work Programme

3.1 Potential topics for the Work Programme and the approach that could be taken are suggested below. Where a topic is not chosen it would then be considered as part of the discussion on the category.

In-depth work – a maximum of 2 from:

1. Broadband and economic development
2. House building and the local economy
3. Waste strategy

Single topic meetings – a maximum of 3 from:

1. Future role of the City Centre
2. Climate change
3. Open spaces
4. Streets Ahead
5. How Sheffield presents itself to the UK and internationally
6. Energy policy for the city
7. Topics from above not selected for In-depth work

Potential topics for a business meeting – a maximum of 6:

1. Libraries (the Committee requested this return in February 2015)
2. Topics from above not selected

Potential topics for a written briefing

1. Rural Broadband – the Committee has had written and verbal updates on this topic following this discussion at April 2013 and could be kept up to date with this through written briefings.
2. Modernisation of Cabinet Highways Committee – the Committee requested at its April 2013 meeting that a review of the new arrangements be undertaken following implementation.

4. Other issues

4.1 The consultation with Members also highlighted some other potential topics. A Review of the City Deal, or the City Deal mark 2 asks of the next Government and the role of the City Region in economic regeneration were mentioned. These topics are potentially ones that would benefit from scrutiny at the city region level rather than at the local authority level.

5. Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is asked to:

1. Discuss the potential topics for inclusion on the Committee's 2014/15 Work Programme
2. Agree a Work Programme for 2014/15

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