



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee 4th February 2016

Report of: Policy & Improvement Officer

Subject: Work Programme 2015/16

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A proposed work programme is attached at appendix 1 for the Committee's consideration and discussion.

The proposed work programme aims to focus on a small number of issues, in depth. This means that the Committee will need to prioritise which issues will be included on formal meeting agendas. In doing this, the Committee may wish to reflect on the prioritisation principles attached at appendix 2 to ensure that scrutiny activity is focussed where it can add most value.

Where an issue is not appropriate for inclusion on a meeting agenda, but there is significant interest from members, the Committee can request written briefings or presentations outside of formal scrutiny meeting time.

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Comment on the proposed work programme
- Identify priorities for inclusion on agendas
- Identify items for written briefings

**Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee
Draft Work Programme 2015-16**

Please note: the draft work programme is a live document and so is subject to change.

Topic	Notes	Date
Homelessness - Rough Sleeping	Full Council requested at its January meeting that a report on the issue of support for rough sleepers in the city be submitted to the relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee for consideration.	7 th April
Annual Report	A short item to comment on a draft of the Committee's section of the Scrutiny Annual Report.	7 th April
Police and Crime Panel Update	Cllr John Campbell, one of the Council's representatives on the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel, to update the Scrutiny Committee on the Panel's work.	Every meeting
Welfare Reform	March 2015 meeting requested "officers continue to present update reports to the Committee in their current form, so that Members could request further information on specific items either when they received the report or at the subsequent meeting." The Committee may also wish to consider hearing from external organisations, e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau.	
Housing+ Model and its Implementation	A formal report on the implementation of Housing+ is proposed, following which a Committee visit would be arranged to see how implementation is working 'on the ground.'	
Local Area Partnerships	The Committee has previously requested a report be presented to the Committee, with the Cabinet Member and Lead Officer being invited to attend the meeting. In response to a public question at the Committee's December 2015 meeting regarding the operation of the Local Area Partnerships, the Chair confirmed that this was being considered as part of a bigger review and, only when this had been completed, would it be appropriate for a representative to report to the Committee.	
Housing Delivery	This has been identified by the Council as a performance challenge and was discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 30 th July 2015. The Economic and	

	Environmental Wellbeing (E&EW) Committee had a Task and Finish Group on this subject in 2014/15. Copies of the report back to the November 2015 E&EW Committee meeting and copies of the minutes have been circulated.	
Gateway Project	The Gateway Project had provided housing for 600 vulnerable individuals and families who were asylum seekers and the Government had asked the Council to take 50 families of Syrian refugees, with funding being provided. The October meeting discussion on the HRA Business Plan Annual Review agreed "a representative from the Gateway Project could be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to explain its operation."	

Written Briefings 'For Information'

(These briefings are circulated with meeting papers, and officers do NOT attend the meeting)

Challenge for Change: Community Engagement	September 2014 Committee requested: "a further report, focusing on progress made in relation to the twelve issues identified in the report, be presented to the Committee in six months' time, with the appropriate officers and tenants' representatives being invited to attend the meeting."	April 2016
Welfare Reform	In July 2013 the Committee requested "a one page update on progress with Welfare Reform issues be provided to Committee Members bi-monthly." In November 2014 the Committee requested "that future reports be set out to include comparative figures, so that trends could be identified."	Every meeting
Right to Buy Update	The Committee have received a bi-monthly update on Right to Buy since November 2013.	Every meeting
Sheffield Money	Full Council agreed that Scrutiny would receive regular reports on Sheffield Money. The Economic and Environmental Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee will also receive the same report. The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee received the first report at its December 2016 meeting and agreed to receive a report every 6 months.	First meeting of 2016/17

The Committee's remaining scheduled meeting date is **4.00pm Thursday 7th April 2016**

Selecting Scrutiny topics

This tool is designed to assist the Scrutiny Committees focus on the topics most appropriate for their scrutiny.

- **Public Interest**
The concerns of local people should influence the issues chosen for scrutiny;
- **Ability to Change / Impact**
Priority should be given to issues that the Committee can realistically have an impact on, and that will influence decision makers;
- **Performance**
Priority should be given to the areas in which the Council, and other organisations (public or private) are not performing well;
- **Extent**
Priority should be given to issues that are relevant to all or large parts of the city (geographical or communities of interest);
- **Replication / other approaches**
Work programmes must take account of what else is happening (or has happened) in the areas being considered to avoid duplication or wasted effort. Alternatively, could another body, agency, or approach (e.g. briefing paper) more appropriately deal with the topic

Other influencing factors

- **Cross-party** - There is the potential to reach cross-party agreement on a report and recommendations.
- **Resources**. Members with the Policy & Improvement Officer can complete the work needed in a reasonable time to achieve the required outcome