



Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee Thursday 7th January 2021

Report of: Policy and Improvement Officer

Subject: Work Programme 2020/21: Safer & Stronger Communities
Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

Author of Report: Deborah Glen, Policy and Improvement Officer
deborah.glen@sheffield.gov.uk

The draft work programme for 2020/21 is attached at Appendix 1 for the Committee's consideration and discussion. The work programme includes 6 meetings as requested, and lists the topics discussed and agreed at the last meeting. These are yet to be scheduled to the dates.

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	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Discuss and agree the work programme

Background Papers: [Sheffield Council Constitution](#)

Category of Report: OPEN

Current Work Programme 2020/21: Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 7th January 2021

1.0 What is the role of Scrutiny?

1.1 Scrutiny Committees exist to hold decision makers to account, investigate issues of local concern, and make recommendations for improvement. The Centre for Public Scrutiny has identified that effective scrutiny:

- Provides 'Critical Friend' challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers
- Enables the voice and concern of the public and its communities
- Is carried out by independent minded governors who lead and own the scrutiny process
- Drives improvement in public services and finds efficiencies and new ways of delivering services

1.2 Scrutiny Committees can operate in a number of ways – through formal meetings with several agenda items, single item 'select committee' style meetings, task and finish groups, and informal visits and meetings to gather evidence to inform scrutiny work. Committees can hear from Council Officers, Cabinet Members, partner organisations, expert witnesses, members of the public. Scrutiny Committees are not decision making bodies, but can make recommendations to decision makers.

2.0 Legislative Powers relevant to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

2.1 Under the Police and Justice Act 2006, every local authority is required to have a Crime and Disorder Committee with the power to scrutinise the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership or Community Safety Partnership as they are now referred. In Sheffield the Crime and Disorder Committee is the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee and the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) is the Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership.

2.2 The requirements of the 2006 Act were enacted by the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009 which came into force for local authorities in England on 30 April 2009. Under the Act the Crime and Disorder Committee (in Sheffield the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee) can:

- Scrutinise decisions made and actions taken in connection by the responsible authorities that make up the CDRP / Community Safety Partnership
- Request information from the responsible authorities
- Require attendance of officer or employees or responsible authorities to answer questions or to provide information.

- 2.3 The Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership is made up of all the public services in the city, with representatives from the private and voluntary sectors. The Partnership considers issues across the breadth of community safety, such as: crime, anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, community cohesion, preventing offending and reoffending, and protecting vulnerable people.
- 2.4 The bodies represented on the Partnership have a statutory duty to work together to prevent crime and disorder in their area. The Partnership is also required by statutory regulation to produce an annual assessment of the levels and patterns of crime, disorder and substance misuse, and agree an annual partnership plan. This is referred to as the Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment. The Committee usually considers an annual reporting item from the partnership, and would expect this January/March 2020. The work programme could incorporate a more present through the year scrutiny of Sheffield's community safety partnership (The Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership).
- 2.5 The Police and Crime Panel was established with the statutory function to scrutinise and hold to account the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire. The Committee have at times received an update on the work of the Police and Crime Panel.

3.0 Determining the work programme

- 3.1 Attached to this report at Appendix 1 is a draft work programme 2020/21. This reflects the decision by OSMC to develop a programme which focuses each of the Committee's efforts scrutinising the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic.
- 3.2 It is important the work programme reflects the principles of effective scrutiny, outlined above at 1.1, and so the Committee has a vital role in ensuring that the work programme is looking at issues that concern local people, and looking at issues where scrutiny can influence decision makers. The work programme remains a live document, and there will be an opportunity for the Committee to discuss it at every Committee meeting.
- 3.3 Members of the Committee can also raise any issues for the work programme via the Chair or Policy and Improvement Officer at any time.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:
- Discuss and agree the work programme

Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee

DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

Last updated: 23/12/20

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

Safer & Stronger Communities		Thursday 5-7pm	
Topic	Reasons for selecting topic	Lead Officer/s	Agenda Item/ Briefing paper
Thursday 1st Oct 2020			
<i>Domestic Abuse and the impact of Covid 19</i>	<i>Members wished to investigate the impact that the lockdown associated with Covid 19 had on incidence of Domestic Abuse and the support services available</i>		Agenda Item
<i>Work Programme 2020/21</i>	<i>Consideration of a draft work programme for Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee 2020/21</i>	<i>Policy and Improvement Officer</i>	Standing Item
Thursday 26th November 5-7pm			

<i>Hanover Tower Block</i>	<i>Requested by members following the publication of a full investigation report by the Council</i>	<i>Janet Sharpe, Director</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Work programme 2019/20</i>		<i>Policy and Improvement Officer</i>	<i>Standing Item</i>
Thursday 10th December 5-7pm			
Fire Authority consultation briefing	Requested by Members to allow input to the consultation – to include an invite to wider membership.	Chris Kirby, Stuart Booth	Agenda item
Work programme 2020/21		Policy and Improvement Officer	Standing Item
Thursday 7th January 5-7 pm			
Housing Repairs Service	Prioritised for the Covid 19 work programme	Nathan Rodgers	Agenda Item
Work programme 2020/21		Policy and Improvement Officer	Standing Item

Thursday 25 th February 5-7pm			
Annual Review of Sheffield Safer and Sustainable Communities Partnership	Statutory duty.	Maxine Stavrianakos Mark Seston	Agenda item
Work programme 2020/21		Policy and Improvement Officer	Standing Item
Thursday 18 th March 5-7 pm			
Homelessness	Prioritised as part of Covid 19 work programme	Janet Sharpe	
Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20 Draft Content & Work Programme 2020/21	This report provides the Committee with a summary of its activities over the municipal year for inclusion in the Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21; and a list of topics which it is recommended be put forward for consideration as part of the 2021/22 Work Programme for this committee.	Policy and Improvement Officer	
Items to be scheduled 2020/21			
Social Housing			Priority

Violent crime and Anti-Social Behaviour			TBC
Youth Strategy/Youth Services	Potential review with CYPF Committee		deferred
Selective Licensing			TBC